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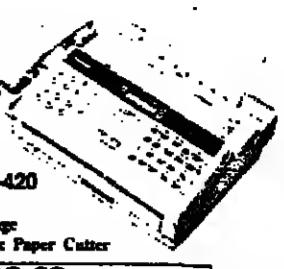
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ARAB TIMES

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990/ZULQAD 3, 1410 AH

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Gorbachev speaks

Still red, but ready for talks, reforms

NEW YORK. May 27. (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has declared unequivocally that he is a communist and asked for respect and understanding of his views.

In an interview with Time magazine during which he discussed his ideological beliefs Gorbachev said:

"Well, I am a communist. I'm sure that answer doesn't make you too enthusiastic, but it shouldn't make you panic either. It's quite normal."

Gorbachev, who has presided over some of the greatest changes in Soviet society since the 1917 Russian Revolution that introduced communism, said he believed that to be a communist today meant "to put universal human values above everything else."

Speaking in advance of next week's summit meeting with President George Bush in Washington, Gorbachev vigorously defended founders of communism such as Marx, Engels and Lenin saying they made an enormous contribution to modern civilisation.

"They bear no responsibility for the distortions of that idea that occurred when it was put into practice," Gorbachev said.

East Europe.

He said the changes in Eastern Europe which had brought down communist parties there came about because the people rejected "the lack of freedom."

"They're rejecting a system that had done violence to their national character and national rights; they're rejecting ossified ways of thinking," he said.

Gorbachev said what he valued in Marxist theory was "the idea of constant movement and development and also its rigorous respect for the truth."

"I detest lies," Gorbachev said, "and I resent anyone who makes one-sided judgements and pretends to have absolute knowledge about what is going to happen and what should be done."

Nato, Warsaw Pact

Gorbachev said Nato and the Warsaw Pact — the two alliances that shape the political map of Europe — should be scrapped in favour of pan-European unity.

Gorbachev also said the United States wanted the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to dominate a new unified Europe, and vowed the Soviet Union would never allow this.

"We are already entering a new phase that should be characterised by the establishment of permanent security structures instead of Nato and the Warsaw treaty organisation," Time quoted Gorbachev as saying.

"I envision Europe as a union of states with common institutions," he said.

Gorbachev said the superpowers had similar visions for the future of Europe but conflicts remain.

Bush's call for a "Europe whole and free" and the Soviet vision of a "common European home" strike a similar note, said Gorbachev. But he added, "there are some differences."

The United States wants Nato, strengthened by a unified Germany, to dominate Europe, said the Soviet leader, adding, "we will never agree to assign it (Nato) the leading role in building a new Europe."

Nato was "destined from the start to be hostile to the Soviet, as a force that whipped up the arms race and the danger of war," he said.

"We are ready to bring our soldiers home. We're already doing so ... the Americans are looking for any pretext to delay their (troops') departure," said Gorbachev.

Germany.

Gorbachev said he expected to narrow his differences with Bush over the question of a unified Germany's membership in Nato during the summit.

"I wouldn't say, I expect a major disagreement — I'll state for a fact that there will be one," Gorbachev said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Khaddafi fails to persuade Assad; five leaders not attending; Soviets assure on Jewish influx



HH the Amir with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Emergency Baghdad summit opens today

Egypt to submit working paper on Mideast peace

BAGHDAD, May 27. (Agencies): At least five of the Arab world's 21 leaders will be missing when a summit meeting opens tomorrow, deflating a show of unity sought by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the PLO.

Saddam Hussein welcomed Arab leaders to Baghdad today for the summit called by the PLO over Arab fears that thousands of Soviet Jews pouring into Israel could displace Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The summit was widely expected to underpin the claim by Iraq, which has come under an onslaught of Western criticism for its weapons programme and anti-Israel rhetoric, as the country most likely to match Israel's military might and Washington's political influence.

With no clear way forward towards a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and with the Soviet Union tied up in internal problems, Arab rulers say the region is under unprecedented pressure to bow to US and Israeli dictates.

"There is increasing anxiety in the Arab world because of the dangers threatening the security of our nation," Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain said on arrival in Baghdad.

"We are going through an extremely bad period," said his Qatari neighbour, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

The heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, UAE and Yemen also arrived in Baghdad today, joining those of Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, who came yesterday.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who counts as head of Palestine, arrived with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Saddam Hussein and his entourage broke into applause when Ali Abdullah Saleh, elected president of the new United Yemen last Tuesday stepped out of the plane from Sanaa.

Syria, Iraq's arch-rival for more than two decades, said its President Hafez Al Assad would boycott the meetings, shattering Arab hopes that they could present a united front against an allegedly hostile world.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Syria's ally, quickly followed suit.

Algeria announced yesterday that President Chadli Benjedid would also stay away. It gave no reason but Algerian officials and newspapers had said a summit without Syria was pointless.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi, the ideal mediator between Baghdad and Damascus, spent Saturday night in the Syrian capital in a last-minute bid to win over President Assad.

But today Assad's spokesman, Jouhman Kouricht, repeated the Syrian position that a summit should be well prepared. Arab diplomats in Baghdad said Assad might at least send a lower-level Syrian delegation to represent him.

Morocco's King Hassan and Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman also said they will not attend the

(Continued on Page 2)

82 killed in Pakistan violence

Curfew imposed; army deployed

HYDERABAD, May 27. (Agencies): Security forces killed 60 people and wounded more than 200 today after Muslim leaders called on residents of this southern city to defy a 13-day-old curfew, police and witnesses said. The army took control of the city of Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, in the provincial capital of Karachi, 22 people died and at least 75 others were wounded in sniper attacks that continued until the army was sent in to halt the violence.

Police blame a militant faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, a small political party representing descendants of Muslim Indians who immigrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

The MQM is demanding recognition of Mohajirs as Pakistan's fifth nationality, along with Punjabis, Pathans, Sindhis and Baluchs.

Thousands of troops swept across Sind last week and arrested more than 800 suspects in the continuing violence, including members of the MQM and their rivals in Benazir's Pakistan Peoples Party.

The MQM once backed Benazir's government but withdrew its support last November, forcing a no-confidence vote that the prime minister narrowly survived.

According to official count, at least 135 people have been killed and hundreds wounded since May 15 in Hyderabad, resulting in the imposition of curfews that brought the city of three million people to a virtual standstill.

In Karachi, ethnic strife has given way to political feuding that has turned the country's financial and industrial centre into a battleground. The main combatants are Benazir's supporters and MQM members.

Today in Hyderabad, sporadic gun battles broke out between residents and security forces — including soldiers, police and paramilitary troops — patrolling the city.

Hundreds of people, many of them women clutching copies of the Holy Quran, poured into the streets at the urging of Muslim

(Continued on Page 2)

Soviets sell gold in Gulf

KUWAIT, May 27. (AP): The Soviet Union, to obtain hard currency, is offering gold to banks, investment establishments and merchants in Kuwait and other Gulf states, a local daily reported today.

The paper quoting "reliable sources" that it did not name, said that with some exceptions the Kuwaiti and other Gulf banks contacted by the Soviet Union rejected the offer because most of them as a matter of general policy do not deal in gold.

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(Continued on Page 2)

Six killed, 11 injured as militants attack soldiers in the capital of Soviet Armenia

MOSCOW, May 27. (AP): Militants attacked soldiers today at the main train station in Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, and at least six people were killed and 11 injured in the fighting, Soviet media and Armenians said.

The bloody assault was the latest surge of violence in the tense republic and the first time fighting has broken out in such a public place in the capital.

Six militants were killed and 10 Interior Ministry soldiers were wounded, three of them critically, the official Soviet news agency Tass reported. One civilian bystander also was hospitalised with bullet

wounds, Tass said.

The news agency did not identify the attackers or their motive. But Armenia has been locked in a violent struggle with neighbouring Azerbaijan for control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The soldiers were returning from escorting a train to Kafan, a city about 200 kilometres (120 miles) southeast of Yerevan, when the shooting broke out at 8:50 am (0350 GMT), Tass said.

Soviet soldiers often escort trains bringing food and other supplies to Armenia because Azerbaijanis have tried in the past to cut off rail traffic. The

Kashmir 'N-alert' alarms Powers

LONDON, May 27. (Reuters): The US and Soviet governments fear nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that both countries are readying atomic arsenals, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said.

Quoting unnamed US intelligence and Defence Department sources, the newspaper said spy satellites had photographed armed convoys leaving Pakistani nuclear complex at Kahuta, near Islamabad, and heading for military airfields.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear bombs racks being fitted to Pakistani F-16 aircraft.

The newspaper's defence correspondent in Washington said the Soviet Union had informed US authorities that India appeared to be putting nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

He said the superpowers were deeply concerned about the intelligence findings and quoted one senior US official as saying the government feared a "major catastrophe" in the sub-continent.

India and Pakistan have repeatedly accused each other of making nuclear bombs while denying they have developed such weapons themselves. India exploded an atomic device in 1974 but says it did not go on to make nuclear bombs.

Reports by defence analysts have concluded that both countries are carrying out nuclear research. One study by US researchers last year said Pakistan was developing a bomb to use with the F-16 aircraft.

US intelligence agents said they could not be sure whether Pakistan was genuinely preparing for war or just pretending to do so to deter India.

Soviet intelligence relayed to Washington said that in the past three weeks, India had heavily reinforced its troops along the border with Pakistan and shown signs of preparing its nuclear weapons for use, the Sunday Times said.

The newspaper said Pakistan might use nuclear weapons because it would be heavily outnumbered by India if war starts. It said the failure of a peace

(Continued on Page 2)

Simply amazing



Baby with four arms

Freak baby born in eastern Turkey with four arms and four legs awaits corrective surgery at an Istanbul hospital. Hospital sources were non-committal on the boy's survival after the operation scheduled for Monday (Reuters wirephoto)

Simply the best



Tina turns

American rock star Tina Turner performing in the stadium of Cologne in front of tens of thousands of spectators on Saturday. The concert in Cologne is Tina Turner's second open air concert in Germany this summer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Weather

NORMAL summer weather with light to moderate north westerly wind. State of sea: slight to moderate. High water: 3:00 am, 1:00 pm. Low water: 8:00 am, 8:00 pm. Sunrise: 4:50 am. Sunset: 6:41 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 43°C 109°F. Almad: 38°C 100°F. Falak: 41°C 104°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 45°C 113°F. Almad: 40°C 104°F. Falak: 42°C 108°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 29°C 82°F. Almad: 30°C 86°F. Falak: 30°C 88°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 24 per cent. Almad: 57 per cent. Falak: 30 per cent.

southeast corner of Armenia near Kafan has been one of the most tense areas in the dispute between Armenians, who are mostly Christians, and Azerbaijanis, who are predominantly Muslims.

Since the feud erupted two years ago, several hundred people have been killed, and hundreds of thousands have fled their homes. Soviet soldiers have been sent into both republics in an effort to quell the fighting.

Soviet soldiers often escort trains bringing food and other supplies to Armenia because Azerbaijanis have tried in the past to cut off rail traffic. The

Yerevan that the shoot-out had taken place at the train station, but she said no details were available. She said the movement did not know who attacked the soldiers.

The movement held a rally on Opera Square in downtown Yerevan this afternoon to tell citizens what it knew about the attack, she said.

Tass said the military patrol was attacked by a group of up to 15 armed men.

The Soviet soldiers, "using their right to use weapons to repel an attack, returned fire," Tass said.

Cultural conflict pits Arab grocers against Chicago blacks

CHICAGO, May 25, (AP): Tensions between blacks and the Arab immigrants who have set up shop on some of Chicago's meanest and poorest streets are festering anew in this mid-western city.

Those tensions have existed for years, but only reached a new low this spring when a Chicago grocer placed a sign in his window, "This store is being remodeled. No Arabs will be invited."

A black official representing the west side district was asked by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee to intervene

but declined. If that makes Arab-Americans angry, said Alderman William Henry, "that's too bad."

Henry later retreated, quietly asking the white owner of Buddy Bear's grocery to remove the sign. But 16 of the store's windows were smashed before the sign came down, about three weeks after it appeared.

Mayor Richard Daley declared the whole business a disgrace and ordered an investigation. Now a group of blacks and Arab-American shopkeepers meet regularly on the west side seeking ways to co-exist peacefully, often

but no one believes the problem is near a solution. In the past 12 months alone.

A black has sued an Arab-American grocer, alleging he was beaten and his nose broken by workers at the grocer's store during an argument.

A group of black ministers on Chicago's south side has organized a "hug black" campaign. "We said don't get mad, get smart. Learn to control your own economy," said the Rev. Hiram Crawford.

Arab-Americans say they are doing a service for residents of impoverished, often

dangerous, communities long abandoned by the supermarket chains.

"Arab grocers are in those black communities because all the big grocers have left," said Fadi Zanayed, head of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, which estimates as many as 1,000 small stores in the city are run by Arab-Americans.

The city's two largest food chains have 69 stores in predominantly white neighbourhoods but just nine in the largest black areas, according to a survey by the Chicago Reporter, a monthly that focuses on racial issues.

But residents complain the smaller shops charge higher prices for substandard, sometimes spoiled food and sell it under security so tight it makes customers feel they are under siege.

Zanayed said higher prices are a function of the smaller quantities purchased at wholesale by the merchants and the high insurance premiums charged to stores in high-crime neighbourhoods.

Strict security is necessary, Arab-American merchants say.

On Saturday, I caught three people steal-

ing in my store," said David Farhan, who runs a grocery and liquor store with his son, Billy.

The Farhans bought American food and liquor six months ago to a desolate strip in a neighbourhood of abandoned buildings and empty lots littered with debris.

While the problems the Farhans face are considerable, they say they have no regrets.

"We have good relations with the people," Billy Farhan said. "We're satisfied."

So is Fred Mohamed, who beat a neighbourhood boycott 18 months ago to make a success of his Giant Foods.

Engine on fire, Boeing lands

LOS ANGELES, May 27, (AP): A Korean Air Boeing 747 shut down one of its four engines when flames shot out on takeoff yesterday, and the jet returned to Los Angeles international airport after dumping fuel, officials said.

Flight 17 to Seoul, South Korea, returned safely with its 384 passengers, said S.K. Park, the airline's local passenger services manager.

He knew only that the engine was not working, but had no details.

The flames were observed by people on the ground as the jet took off, said Art Morrison, a Federal Aviation Administration duty officer.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Fear of losing too much money

Opera Aida cancelled

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, May 27, (AP): A US tour of Verdi's opera "Aida" that would have included a five-story Sphinx and about 1,200 performers was cancelled because producers felt they'd lose too much money, an official said yesterday.

The costs were getting too high and the producer's felt income would not cover expenses," said Tony Attanasio, marketing director for the International Opera Festival.

He said the festival was planning to resume the show in Europe next summer.

"We have to go back to our old way of doing production — produce it ourselves and do it one show at a time," he said.

Performances had been scheduled June 1 and 2 at an outdoor stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, near New York City, and 30,000 tickets had been sold, Attanasio said.

The old billboards carried the caption, "the party's over," a reference to the Communist Party's problems. The new displays carry a message in Russian above the words in English: "Karpov, the spirit of Minnesota." There is no picture of Gorbatchev on the new white-and-black billboards. (AP)

TOKYO: Wyntoo Marshall, Dizzy Gillespie, George Adams and Tania Maria will highlight this summer's Mount Fuji Jazz festival, one of Japan's most popular jazz events, organisers said Wednesday.

The annual outdoor festival, held on the banks of Lake Yamanaka at the foot of Mount Fuji, brings leading jazz musicians from the United States to join a handful of Japanese musicians in three days of concerts.

Also playing in this year's festival, Aug 24-26, will be groups led by Jimmy Smith, Ellis Marsalis, John Scofield, Rachelle Ferrell, Terumasa Hino and others, the organisers said.

Another annual Japanese International Jazz Festival, select live under the sky, will be held July 28-August 1 at various Tokyo locations organisers say. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: Sylvester Stallone says this summer's "Rocky V" will be the last in the series because there is nothing more to say about the not-so-talented "Baloo."

"I have no more to say about the character, which is my alter ego. I can't deny that," Stallone said.

So what's ahead for Stallone?

"Right now," he said, "we're doing something ecological, which is the theme of the 1990s. Then I'd like to do a comedy."

The movie's premiere is tentatively set for Nov 15. (AP)



LOS ANGELES: Swing era clarinetist Artie Shaw marked his 80th birthday by taking a swipe at the current music scene.

"Now, Madonna goes out there in a jock strap and that's called music. It is so I'music," Shaw said Wednesday during a city council tribute to the jazz legend, who reached his commercial peak in 1938 with "Begin the Beguine."

"He's one of the all-time talents," said councilman Ernani Bernardi, a jazz aficionado who called Shaw's music "absolutely timeless, priceless stuff — far superior to what people listen to today." (AP)

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Jane Fonda received the Golda Meir Fellowship Award for her efforts to free Soviet Jews and said it was humbling to get a prize bearing the name of Israel's former prime minister.

"When somebody gives you an award associated with Golda Meir, it is awesome to say the least," Miss Fonda said during the presentation.

The activist-actress was honoured by Hebrew University's women's committee builders of Scopus for her work campaigning for the release of Soviet Jews, particularly refusenik Ida Nudel's right to leave that country. (AP)

NEW YORK: Gerald Arpino has decided to stay on as the Joffrey Ballet's artistic director, the company announced.

Arpino quit May 1 and withdrew his works and those of the company's founder from the Joffrey's repertoire after the board of directors voted to set up a committee to run the company in place of Arpino and the board.

Ten board members resigned over what one member called a takeover by businessmen ignorant of artistic matters.

Arpino's resignation was never accepted by the board. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Marlon Brando spoke of his family's "acute misery" after a judge refused to set bail for his son, who was charged with murdering his half-sister's boyfriend.

"There's no way to describe it to you unless you've gone through it in your life. We must just be strong, and the family, with love and supporting each other, will prevail," the reclusive actor told reporters.

The white-haired Brando sat in the front row of the packed courtroom and stared straight ahead as his son, Christian, was brought in. (AP)

MADRID: Some of the world's top opera companies will perform in a unique Expo 92 season devoted mainly to the most famous works set in Seville, Spanish tenor Placido Domingo said on Saturday.

Members of the New York's Metropolitan Opera, the Scala of Milan, London's Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera will be at the world fair's opera season starting on April 20, 1992 in Seville with a performance of Bizet's Carmen. Mozart's Don Giovanni and Le Nozze di Figaro, Beethoven's Fidelio, Verdi's La Forza del Destino, Rossini's Barber of Seville and Donizetti's La Favorita — all stories based in Seville — will be performed during the fair which runs through to October. (AP)

Visit

Pascal boosts Opong's morale

NEW YORK, May 27, (UPI): A young Haitian immigrant set afire by a bully in his Brooklyn neighbourhood met yesterday with the President of Haiti, Ertha Pascal Trouillot, who came to boost the boy's morale as he neared the end of his hospital stay.

David Opong, a frail 12-year-old whose plight drew nationwide attention, met for 15 minutes with Pascal. The president gave Opong a bouquet of flowers, later saying she came to offer "the support of the Haitian people."

Opong, who was dragged into an abandoned basement in flatbush, tied to a pipe and set afire, has been visited in his hospital room by former president Ronald Reagan and a host of other celebrity well-wishers.



Tina Turner in Germany

Tina Turner performing in the stadium of Cologne in front of ten of thousands of spectators May 26. The concert in Cologne is Tina Turner's second open air concert in Germany this summer. (Reuter wirephoto)

Drug side effects often go undetected: study

WASHINGTON, May 27, (Reuters): Official approval of new drugs in the United States is no guarantee of safety, an influential congressional watchdog agency said.

The warning from the General Accounting Office (GAO) came after a study which found over half the new drugs to come on the market over a recent 10-year period were later discovered to trigger serious side effects.

The study found post-approval risks including heart failure, respiratory arrest, seizures, kidney and liver failure, severe blood disorders, birth defects and blindness.

in 102 of 198 drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 1976 to 1985.

"The GAO study is an important reminder that FDA approval does not guarantee that approved drugs are completely safe," said New York Representative Ted Weiss, who requested the study.

Weiss, chairman of a House subcommittee that monitors the FDA, said the GAO would be asked to investigate whether the late discovery of such serious side effects was due to a fault in its approval process.

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No proof of Contra claims: probbers

MANAGUA, May 27, (AP): Members of an investigative team named by the president announced yesterday that they could find no proof of rebel claims that the army massacred 14 of their fighters who had laid down their weapons.

"We haven't been able to confirm the existence of any dead alleged by the Nicaraguan resistance," Santiago Murray, representative of the United Nations international support and verification commission, said.

Rebel leaders walked out of disarmament talks with the government on Friday demanding an investigation of what they claimed was an army massacre of 14 former rebel fighters and 100 civilians. The US-backed rebels, known as Contras, said the massacre took place near Wasala in Matagalpa province, 150 miles (241 kilometers) northeast of Managua.

The investigative commission, named by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on Friday, travelled by helicopter to the area yesterday and interviewed army and rebel leaders, Murray said.

He said the commission members have found no information about "any dear or other serious incident."

In interviews yesterday with residents, rebels and officials in the Wasala area, the Associated Press encountered no testimony supporting the Contra claim.

The people interviewed near Wasala in the community of Zinica where rebels alleged the incident occurred on May 18, seemed surprised by the news of a massacre and said they had heard about it from a Managua radio station.

The investigating commission consisted of government delegates, UN officials, Cardinal Miguel Obando Y. Bravo and a Contra representative.

Contra commander Oscar Sovalbarro was named to the commission but he remained in Managua yesterday in a hotel where he said he and 18 other Contras were being held "hostage" by police.

Elite police units surrounded two Managua hotels—the Intercontinental and the Mercedes—where the rebels were staying after breaking off disarmament talks.

The police did not appear to be threatening the rebels, but Contra leaders said they were told they would not leave the hotel grounds.

President spokesman Daniel Lacayo refused to comment on why police were prohibiting the rebels from leaving.

The leftist Sandinistas, who turned over power to Chamorro last month after losing February elections, still control the military and police.

The investigative team interviewed Col. Manuel Salvatierra, head of the army in the region where Contras claimed the massacre occurred, and a rebel chief identified as "Chinaman four," Murray said, adding that neither rights group said yesterday.

Americas Watch, a privately funded group based in New York, said in a report the FMLN rebels should immediately halt trials of suspected war criminals until the insurgents can prove the proceedings comply with international standards. (AP)



130 arrested

A plainclothes police officer arrests a screaming squatter outside a derelict building in the northern Dutch city of Groningen May 27. Over 130 squatters were arrested after barricading themselves in a building and holding off riot police for over 24 hours. (Reuter wirephoto)

Civil defence copter crashes

PARIS, May 27, (AP): A French civil defence helicopter crashed in the sea near Mont-Saint-Michel late yesterday, killing at least one of the three men on board. Authorities said the two others were missing.

Police said the helicopter was on a routine marine surveillance mission when the accident occurred at about 8 pm (1800 GMT).

Rocard bids tighter control on immigration

PARIS, May 27, (AP): Premier Michel Rocard, seeking to placate opposing sides in a bitter debate over immigration, has proposed boosting aid for foreigners already in France while working harder to keep out new immigrants.

In a document released Friday night, Rocard said French consulates abroad should tighten controls over tourist visas making sure they are not used for illegal immigration.

He pledged to strengthen the campaign against employment of illegal

immigrants in France. Boats, vehicles and aircraft used in clandestine border crossings should be confiscated, and an additional 250 officers should be assigned to escort illegal immigrants out of the country, he said.

Any foreign country which encouraged its citizens to seek unauthorized jobs in France would be viewed as unfriendly, but France would help with economic development projects in countries where immigrants originate, Rocard said.

On the other hand, Rocard proposed

allocating an additional 200 million francs (\$36 million) to local governments for programme intended to ease immigrants' assimilation into French society. These funds would be used for housing, education, and French language programmes.

The government would seek to speed up the naturalisation process for immigrants seeking and qualifying for French citizenship, he said.

Rocard said France would not alter its policy of offering political exile to dissidents suffering persecution in their

homelands. But this policy would be "limited to its genuine purpose," he said.

Rocard unveiled his proposals in advance of a meeting Tuesday to which he has invited all of the country's main political parties, except the far-right National Front, to seek a possible consensus position on immigration.

Human rights groups have urged the socialist government to intensify efforts to assist immigrants. The centre-right opposition parties, however,

demand tighter controls over immigration, while the National Front says immigrants should be deported.

National Front's leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has been widely accused of fostering a climate of racial intolerance. Government officials have held him indirectly responsible for the recent desecration of Jewish graves, and the National Front has been barred from holding meetings in several towns.

Le Pen vowed to defy the latest ban,

imposed Friday by an administrator of the Savoy region near Geneva who prohibited a National Front meeting planned for today in the town of Saint-Francois.

"We're familiar with some of these fascist prefects, under the boot of the government, and the time will come when they will be judged by the people," Le Pen told a news conference yesterday.

"Naturally, I'll go to Saint-Francois, and I will wait for the prefect to arrest me," he said.

Le Pen relishes No. 1 demon label

Out to expel immigrants

ST. CLOUD, France, May 27, (AP): Jean-Marie Le Pen, accused of inspiring one of the most vile anti-Semitic crimes in postwar France, has been called the nation's No. 1 demon. He seems to relish the title.

"If I told you it gives me pleasure, would you be surprised?" he asks with a grin.

The brash, right-wing politician is trying to keep France French. He and his National Front, fearing "colonisation" by foreigners, want to expel immigrants and enact new laws to keep them out.

He has been accused of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, but replies that he is simply a patriot, unafraid to say aloud what others think in private.

After the discovery May 10 of the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in Carpentras and mutilation of a

corpse, Interior Minister Pierre Joxe accused Le Pen of fostering an atmosphere of hate. Le Pen was present only in effigy at a huge protest march in Paris which drew all main political parties.

"I am Carpentras" read a sign on the effigy.

Le Pen, during a two-hour interview in the study of his suburban Paris home, said the desecration was a plot to discredit him.

"There is one thing I'm sure of. It is that I'm not guilty and the National Front is not guilty," Le Pen said. "I don't know who did it, but I know who didn't do it."

Like a television preacher, Le Pen, a deputy in the European parliament, knows how to pump a crowd, strutting, cajoling and raging, his street-smart edge tempered with quotes from Pascal or citations in Latin. Silver-haired and physically imposing, Le Pen — even his detractors acknowledge — has charisma.

Referred to in the French press as the "beast" or the "devil," he thrives on controversy.

"Democracy is a debate, a combat of ideas," he said. "It's not a parade of arm-chair philosophers with good intentions."

On a bookshelf sits a portrait of Le Pen wearing the black bandana he once donned to cover the eye he lost in a street fight defending a parliamentary deputy.

A former paratrooper and Foreign Legionnaire who fought in Indochina and Algeria, Le Pen, 61, now fights many of his battles in court.

Le Pen has been the target and initiator of numerous defamation lawsuits, winning some and losing some, but denies being racist or anti-Semitic.

"Mc?Racism? It's a gag, a gag," he booms. "But I'm not for the melting pot. I'm for the defense of one's culture."

"I'd despair if I found the culture of Brooklyn in France," he said, referring to a section of New York City.

As for Jews, "if they are



Le Pen shown during an interview with Reuters in the garden of his spacious mansion in Saint-Cloud near Paris. (Reuter wirephoto)

Politicians of all sorts have scrambled to out-maneuver or accommodate him — or woo his followers with get-tough immigration programmes of their own. The government of former premier Jacques Chirac, by changing the law governing voter representation, managed to reduce the National Front's parliamentary seats from 33 to one.

Since Carpentras, which set off a wave of anti-Semitic acts, Le Pen is being denounced perhaps more so than ever.

Le Pen is "a man dangerous for national unity, for civil peace," declared Chirac.

He "boasts the name of Gen De Gaulle and applauds that of the Nazi Schoenhuber," Chirac said, referring to Franz Schoenhuber, a former Waffen SS member, now a colleague in Le Pen's far-right group in the European Parliament.

Refugees attacked in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, May 27, (Reuter): Swedish extremists opposed to immigration staged fresh arson attacks at the weekend, when they petrol-bombed a refugee centre, smoke-bombed sleeping families and burned several caravans.

Nobody was hurt in the latest incident last night as a petrol bomb was hurled at a refugee centre at Västervik, west of Stockholm, the fifth attack since Thursday on property, housing refugees from Lebanon, Somalia, Ethiopia and Iran.

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson has condemned the wave of violence as criminal and racist.

In the most serious attack to date, 11 spluttering refugees were taken to hospital after a smoke bomb was thrown as they slept in a building near Motala, southwest Sweden, yesterday morning. Doctors later discharged all but one of them.

A Turkish Islamic cultural centre outside Stockholm burned to the ground early today, in what police said could turn out to be another deliberate fire.

Extremists daubed racist slogans such as "Keep Sweden Swedish" in two other towns where accommodation being prepared for refugees was set ablaze.

"This is the work of criminals. We must vigorously oppose this tendency to racism and hatred of immigrants," Carlsson said in a statement yesterday. Sweden's immigration board has ordered a night watch at all its refugee reception centres.

Barry drug probe

WASHINGTON, May 27, (UPI): A list of 19 alleged co-conspirators in the drug investigation against Mayor Marion Barry includes eight people who told authorities they provided cocaine to Barry, a published report said today.

Friends and girlfriends of Barry, as well as D.C. business figures are among the 19 alleged co-conspirators whose names prosecutors turned over to Barry's attorneys last week, the Washington Post reported.

None of the 19 have been charged with any crime and most are expected to testify against Barry at his trial scheduled to begin on

Burglars rob cash machines

NEW YORK, May 27, (UPI): Burglars broke into the automatic teller machines at a chemical bank branch on Manhattan's west side, stealing more than \$250,000 early yesterday, police said.

The heist at the chemical branch was discovered at 9:30 am by bank security workers, who found the bank door open, said Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman.

"The security people think it happened between 3 am and 9:30 am," Burns said. "They got away with more than a quarter million dollars."

How the thieves got access to the back of the ATM machines was a mystery. "There was no sign of forced entry," Burns said.

19 co-conspirators

June 4, Barry is charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine, a misdemeanor, 10 counts of misdemeanor cocaine possession and three counts of lying about drugs.

Prosecutors have granted immunity against prosecution to eight of the 19 who said they provided cocaine to Barry, the newspaper reported.

Among the 19 are advertising executive Jeffrey Mitchell, lawyer Lloyd N. Moore Jr., Atlanta public relations executive Hank Wilson and former DC government employees Darrell Sabros and Daniel Butler.

Her victory in that case is the one aspect of her life

US civil rights activist Angela Davis predicts 1990s will be decade of activism

CORALVILLE, Pennsylvania, May 27, (UPI): Civil rights activist Angela Davis predicts the 1990s will be a decade of activism as international politics become more complex than ever, a pivotal decade in determining the history of future generations.

Davis, 46, speaking to the 4th National Convention of Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE) in suburban Pittsburgh, also said yesterday she is optimistic about a growing sentiment of

anti-racism that has arisen to combat an outbreak of bigotry.

David personal message — unite and fight for human rights — remains the same since she first achieved notoriety in the 1960s. A two-time Communist Party candidate for vice-president, Davis gained world-wide attention in a 22-month murder trial that ended with her acquittal in June 1972.

In the late 1960s, Davis was involved with George Jackson, one of three black inmates known as

for which she would most like to be remembered.

"That sent a message that it is possible for us, if we organise and unite, to be victorious," she told UPI. "That is an enduring message."

Davis said she still considers herself a militant, adding, "I wouldn't change anything I don't regret anything."

In the late 1960s, Davis was involved with George Jackson, one of three black inmates known as the "Soledad Brothers" who were accused of murdering a white prison guard. While they awaited trial, she obtained a permit to own a gun.

She then purchased several guns and gave them to Jonathan Jackson, younger brother of George, who used them in August 1970 to free a black defendant on trial in California. The younger Jackson seized the judge, district attorney and three others as hostages.

"That is the work of criminals. We must vigorously oppose this tendency to racism and hatred of immigrants," Carlsson said in a statement yesterday. Sweden's immigration board has ordered a night watch at all its refugee reception centres.

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Labour lead over Conservatives slips

LONDON, May 27, (UPI): The Labour Party's lead has slipped 10 points against the Conservative Party, according to a poll published yesterday which suggested the Tories' recent "summer offensive" may be working.

A national opinion poll survey for the independent newspaper and British Broadcasting Corp. showed that Labour is now 15 points ahead of the ruling Conservatives, compared with a 25-point lead the main opposition party held in April.

Forty-nine per cent of those surveyed said they intended to vote for Labour in the next election,

down 5 per cent from April, while 34 per cent said they would cast ballots for the Conservatives, a 5 per cent rise over the previous month's poll results.

The Liberal Democrats Party gained one per cent to reach 8 per cent, while the remaining voters were split between the Green Party, the Social Democrats Party and others.

In recent weeks, the Tories have stepped up their verbal attacks on Labour, attempting to paint their opponents' policies as vague and ineffectual. The Tories, so-called "summer offensive" includes poli-

ters showing Labour's trademark red rose wilting. Conservative Party chairman Kenneth Baker warned Tuesday that a Labour government would "jeopardise all the successes of this government."

Poll results show 63 per cent said Labour "has vague policies" while 29 per cent believe it has "clear policies," the Independent newspaper said.

For the third month in a row, Labour leader Neil Kinnock edged out Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher when voters were asked to judge the suitability of each person to serve as prime minister. Kinnock

averaged 5 out of 10 points on a scale of one to 10, while Thatcher gained only 4.8 points.

The poll tax, a highly unpopular tax replacing property taxes which went into effect April 1, remains the top issue on voters' minds, the survey said. The tax requires local city councils to set a flat sum that must be paid by every Briton who is at least 18 years old, with some exceptions, and has sparked a series of often violent demonstrations and protests. Meanwhile, Thatcher and the Tory Party saw their popularity plunge to new lows amid the uproar over the hated poll tax.

Shuttle getting ready to soar

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, May 27, (AP): The countdown for the launch of the space shuttle Columbia began on schedule today for the first mission in five years devoted entirely to scientific research.

The countdown began at 1 a.m. (0500 GMT) and launch is set for 12:38 a.m. (0438 GMT) Wednesday. Columbia will be on a mission to study the stars, a comet and other celestial matter.

The launch is two weeks later than planned because the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had to replace a bad cooling valve in Columbia's payload bay.

"It looks very good. There have been ups and downs a lot, so everybody's very excited about the prospects of getting this mission off," mission manager Jack Jones said Friday.

Columbia's payload, a \$150 million observatory called Astro will provide a much more thorough study of ultraviolet light than the Hubble space telescope, placed in orbit a month ago during the last shuttle flight. Astro also will probe X-rays invisible to Hubble.

"We selected Astro to fill in the holes, so to speak," explained Ed Weiler, a programme scientist for NASA.

It will be the first mission since 1985 to use Spacelab, a scientific research facility carried in the shuttle's payload bay. It also will be the first of five Spacelab missions dedicated to a single subject — Astrophysics.

The four astronauts on board will operate Astro from the rear flight deck using Spacelab computers, a pressurized laboratory module in which astronauts conduct experiments will not be used. Other Spacelab components will support the 27,450-pound (12,451 kg) observatory in the open payload bay.

It will be the first of 36 shuttle missions to offer "Lessons from space." More than 40 middle-school students at two NASA centres will question the astronauts through a two-way audio and video link.

And it will be the first time direct radio communication is made between a US and Soviet spacecraft. Columbia's astronauts plan to talk by ham radio to two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet space station Mir.

During the 9 to 10-day mission Astro's four telescopes will make nearly 1,000 observations of up to 230 sources of ultraviolet and X-ray radiation, short, high-energy wavelengths absorbed by the atmosphere.

At least four observations are planned of Comet Austin, making what's believed to be its first journey through the solar system.

Pope warns of consumerism

Demise of communism shows need for religion

VALLETTA, May 27, (Reuters): Pope John Paul said today that Western-style consumerism loomed as a new threat in Eastern Europe after the failure of communism.

"The series of events in Europe during the last few months shows clearly the inadequacy and failure of a culture which was not built on the primacy of the spiritual dimension of the human person," he said.

The Pope was speaking to intellectuals in the village of St Julians, just outside the Maltese capital of Valletta on the last day of his weekend trip to the Mediterranean island.

Since the tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe in 1989, the Pope, whose homeland was the first to dump old-style communism, has not passed up an opportunity to proclaim Marxism's moral bankruptcy.

"Rediscovered freedom is leading peoples long condemned to silence, fear and want to proclaim aloud the value of the human person, the spiritual character of life, the need to express individual worth and personal responsibility ...," he said.

But as he did in Czechoslovakia in April and in Mexico earlier this month the Pope said the moral value of the region's newly discovered freedom could be undermined by materialism.

The Pope yesterday warned the youth of Malta not to be lured by drugs, sex or materialism at a large rally during the final day of his three-day visit.

The Pope arrived at Valletta's national stadium at 10 a.m. to receive a rousing welcome from about 30,000 people who filled the arena to capacity.

He said the demise of communism had shown the need for Christian faith, but warned that there were signs of a "weakening of moral commitment and a narrow sense of spiritual inspiration."

The pontiff during his stay made many pointed criticisms of the shallowness of socialist thought, and has openly endorsed the Christian Democratic government of Prime Minister Eddie French Adami.

Cancer
Neutron therapy killed 33 in UK

LONDON, May 27, (Kuna): British medical experts said more than 30 cancer patients in Britain have died from low energy neutron treatment, it was reported today.

They believe the therapy, a high energy version of which won the personal backing of the British government and a £6 million grant in 1989, led to the deaths of 33 patients in late 1970s and mid 1980s, the British media said.

Radiologist Dr Sidney Arnott said 16 patients given neutron therapy for bladder cancer at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, Scotland, in the early 1980s died as a direct result of it.



World War II veterans return to the Dunkirk beaches to discuss old memories of the evacuation. Left to right: Keith Smith, 67, George Raines, 66, John Shipman, 77, George Dimbleby, 73, shown on the beaches of Dunkirk, France, May 26 (Reuters wirephoto)

Security brace up for demos

WASHINGTON, May 27, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev may be the most popular Soviet leader ever with Americans, but US security forces, helped by KGB agents, are bracing for thousands of demonstrators during his summit visit this week.

For his four days in Washington police have issued 14 permits for demonstrations near the White House alone. Other protests are planned in the capital as well as on his trips to Minneapolis, San Francisco and even cities he will not visit.

The biggest protests are expected from thousands of Lithuanians, Estonian and Latvian exiles pressing Gorbachev to permit independence for the Soviet Baltic states.

Security arrangements for Gorbachev are the most difficult the secret service have ever had to deal with for a Soviet leader.

For the first time in 30 years the head of the communist world is heading into America's heartland. Nikita Khrushchev was the last Soviet leader to visit America's Midwest when he toured Iowa state in 1959.

See also Page 8



Squatters riot

Squatters look on behind a burning barricade in the centre of Groningen, northern Netherlands, on May 26. A group of squatters who are facing an eviction from their squat building started rioting in the morning. The group erected barricade and set cans on fire (Reuters wirephoto)

Queen to visit Eton College

550th anniversary

ETON, England, May 27, (AP): Old Etonians will be thronging "ye distant spires, ye antique towers, that crown the wai'ry glade," as Thomas Gray put it, and Queen Elizabeth II will be coming for lunch on Tuesday for the 550th anniversary of Eton College.

It really isn't the anniversary, which is a small example of the famous school's serene indifference to the ways of the world. King Henry VI founded the school on Oct. 11, 1440, an Eton official explained, but Tuesday, May 29, conveniently falls the day before the annual holiday honouring King George III, a great Eton supporter. His death was the occasion for students donning the long-tailed black coats that remain compulsory.

Eton's calendar, like its vocabulary, is all its own. Eton long ago disposed of top hats, flogging, and humiliating "bum freezer" jackets for its shortest boys, but it remains its own world: masters are "beaks," classes are "divs," Rowes are "wet bobs," cricketers are "dry bobs" and students are either "tugs" (king's scholars) or "oppidans" (fee-paying students).

The myth of Eton is that the school inculcates superiority of mind, grace and social status.

"The thing Eton majors in is arrogance — so deep-rooted it is totally unselfconscious. It's ugly and unappealing, and I've spent the past 30 years trying to unlearn it," says Mark Fisher, a Labour Party lawmaker.

Lord Longford says he was once interrogated by King George VI about why he, an old Etonian, became a socialist. It came down to "the conviction that we are all equal in the sight of God," Longford said. "Well, I think Eton stands for something far removed from that."

Fisher and Longford were among 50 "old boys" interviewed by Danny Danziger for his recently published book, "Eton Voices." "Etonians have great expectations — and Etonians are rarely disappointed," Danziger concluded.

Their ranks include George Orwell, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Henry Fielding, Aldous Huxley, the economist John Maynard Keynes, the pirate Capt. Hook, a score of prime ministers and three members of the current cabinet.

Derek Malcolm, film critic of the Guardian newspaper, left Eton feeling equal to any occasion. "I mean, there's no higher you can go socially," he told Danziger.

Pish and Tosh, says Philip Howard, literary editor of the Times of London. "You should see some of the diffident, insecure ... boring Etonians I met, if I don't see them coming first," he wrote in the newspaper.

"I do get irritated by people who think that because we look traditional and old-fashioned, the establishment is hidebound and backward looking," the headmaster, Eric Anderson, told the Daily Express.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Romanian torches himself: A 31-year-old Romanian set himself on fire Sunday in front of the American embassy in Budapest, and doctors were battling for his life, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported.

Hospital sources said the man, Miroi Dimitru, was in critical condition with second- and third-degree burns covering about 35 percent of his body.

According to MTI, the reasons for the suicide attempt were unknown. It said Dimitru could not be questioned.

The hospital sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that after an injection of a painkiller, Dimitru said he had arrived from Romania on Saturday, planning to defect. (AP)

Horn is new Socialist boss: Hungary's ousted communists, banished to opposition in elections last month after ruling for more than 40 years, elected former Foreign Minister Gyula Horn as their leader at the weekend.

Veteran reformer Rezso Nyers had resigned as party president on Saturday as he opened a congress of the new-look Socialist Party, formerly a communist party.

Horn, 58, supervised last year's large-scale exodus of East Germans to West Germany via Hungary. The exodus weakened communist power in East Germany and helped bring on the collapse of East Berlin's Stalinist regime, triggering a domino effect in which hardline communists were toppled throughout Eastern Europe. (Reuters)

Plot to halt nuke testings: Grass-roots activists from around the world came together Saturday with songs, shouts and sad stories of radiation damage in Soviet Kazakhstan, and they discussed ways to halt all nuclear testing.

"We're poisoning our soil, we're poisoning our water," former bomb-maker Ted Taylor told participants in the four-day conference. The US physicist said Americans and Soviets are more likely to be killed by the pollution from their own nuclear testing than by an enemy bomb.

Although superpower tensions are easing, the activists decided they have virtually no hope of persuading US, British and French leaders to stop testing nuclear bombs anytime soon. The United States detonated an underground bomb on Friday. (AP)

Neo-Nazis rampage, 21 held: About 300 rightists and neo-Nazis rampaged through downtown East Berlin after a soccer match, damaging cars and smashing windows. Police arrested 21 people, the news agency ADN said Sunday.

After reaching the central Alexanderplatz where they were met by police, about 200 people from the group fled to the nearby monument to Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, the founders of communism. There the group formed a human swastika before being dispersed by police, ADN said.

The disturbances occurred after a soccer match in East Berlin on Saturday, the agency said. (AP)

Athens pollution hits high: Over 500 people were admitted to Athens hospitals over the weekend complaining of heart and respiratory ailments linked to high pollution levels, state and private radio stations reported on Sunday.

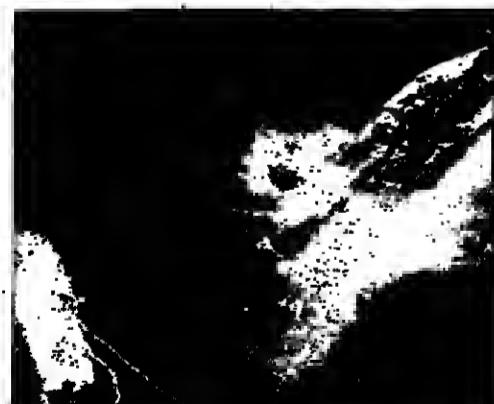
Pollution in the Greek capital has been dangerously high for three straight days. On Saturday, nitrogen dioxide levels neared 500 milligrams per cubic metre of air, the point at which emergency measures must be taken.

The Environment Ministry advised residents to avoid going out on the streets but did not announce emergency steps. (Reuters)



Students riot

A South Korean teacher tries to stop riot police from entering Seoul's Kyonggi University where about 3,000 teachers held a rally to demand educational reforms on May 27. Police fired teargas to evict defying protesters from the university. (Reuters)



Tries to tow

A rescue boat tries to tow the capsized fishing boat which collided with a 476-tonne cargo ship in the sea near Otaru, 1,000 km north of Tokyo, May 27. Twenty-three people died and one remains missing. (Reuters)



Administers first aid

An injured woman receives first aid from rescue workers near the plant of Dai-Ichi Chemical Industries in western Tokyo May 26, after a series of blasts rocked the factory. Seven people were killed and 21 others injured. (Reuters)

Birthday

Genghis Khan

ULAN BATOR, May 27, (Reuters): About two thousand Mongolians crowded into Ulan Bator's central square today to celebrate the birthday of national hero Genghis Khan for the first time in living memory.

The crowd watched passively as a huge banner bearing the "great Khan's" portrait fluttered in the breeze and a young man dressed as Genghis sang Mongolian songs.

The memory of Genghis, unifier of warring Mongol tribes in the 13th century and bloodthirsty conqueror of the biggest ever land empire, has been suppressed since the Soviet Union took control of the nation in 1921.

Moscow's grip has relaxed considerably in recent years and Genghis has become a powerful symbol of Mongolian nationalism in this vast but sparsely populated land between China and the Soviet Union.

First NZ cop killed: A policeman was gunned down on Sunday in the first killing of a New Zealand officer on duty in 14 years, a police spokesman said.

Constable Peter Umbers, 35, was shot at the remote south island township of Wedderburn after stopping a driver suspected of involvement in an armed robbery.

Crime is traditionally low in New Zealand by international standards, but police have struggled to control a growing number of armed robberies and vicious rapes. (Reuters)

Thai doctors investigate: Thai doctors have started working in Singapore to keep tabs on the health of labourers from Thailand, 17 of whom have died in their sleep under mysterious circumstances, officials said Sunday.

Operating out of the Thai labour office, the physicians are advising workers about dietary deficiencies, distributing first-aid kits and answering questions from frightened Thais who do not speak English and have difficulty communicating with local doctors. (UPI)

Ship toll rises to 94: The death toll in the sinking of an overcrowded passenger ship last weekend off the east coast of Kalimantan has risen to 94, police said Friday.

Rescuers recovered a body in Nunukan on Friday evening, bringing the death toll to 94, said an officer at the Nunukan police station.

The "Cahaya Macoll" carrying at least 235 people sank Sunday en route from Nunukan to Tarakan, both in east Kalimantan province, some 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) northeast of Jakarta. (AP)

Train robbers to die in China: China has sentenced to death 11 members of a train robbery gang, "The North Eastern Tigers," for repeatedly terrorising trains throughout the country, an official newspaper said on Sunday.

The workers daily described the "Tigers" as "extremely harmful" people who robbed many trains. It gave no details of their activities. (Reuters)

Beijing crackdown on crime: Police managing new late-night anti-crime checkpoints said they have broken up 148 gangs operating in the capital and solved 1,444 crimes, the official press reported.

About 15,000 police and thousands of other security workers have been stopping night-time traffic at many Beijing locations in a major crackdown on crime in advance of September's Asian Games, the state-run People's Daily reported.

Chinese authorities are determined that the nation's first staging of a major international sporting event will not be marred by embarrassing disruptions, whether political or criminal. (AP)

Ship crew rescued: The crew of a Chinese iron ore tanker was rescued Saturday after abandoning the ship in the Indian Ocean because of a severe crack in its hull, officials said.

All 39 crewmen of the Tao Yuan Hai were transferred safely to the Japanese gas tanker Kakuko Maru after losing a three-day battle to save their vessel, the Australian Federal Sea Safety Centre reported.

Tries to tow

A rescue boat tries to tow the capsized fishing boat which collided with a 476-tonne cargo ship in the sea near Otaru, 1,000 km north of Tokyo, May 27. Twenty-three people died and one remains missing. (Reuters)

met these requirements.

While welcoming the Tokyo talks, the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China emphasised in a statement yesterday that "only a comprehensive political settlement will bring lasting peace and stability."

Such a settlement must include "specific provisions" for UN control over a ceasefire, the statement said. There must also be an end to foreign military aid, free and fair elections under UN auspices,

Class strata in China prisons

HONG KONG, May 27. (AP): A recently published account of prison life by a famed Chinese journalist indicates that members of the elite are receiving far better treatment than others swept up in the crackdown on dissent.

Outspoken journalist Dai Qing, who was among more than 200 political prisoners recently released by the Chinese communist authorities, wrote that her 10 months behind the walls of the maximum-security Qin Cheng prison in Beijing were like staying at a "guest house in a remote town."

Her descriptions of Qin Cheng were the focus of a seven-day series titled: "My life in a

prison" published by the Chinese-language Ming Pao Daily News last week. Sources in Beijing confirmed that the newspaper account was written by Ms Dai, who is in her late 40s.

In the diary Ms. Dai said she had a "spacious" 20-square-metre (215-square-foot) room to herself, and it was well lit and included a shower room.

The journalist wrote that she was allowed to spend two hours daily in an open courtyard and was provided with a set of new personal items that included a toothbrush, face towel, pillow cases, quilt and sheets.

"Nobody was rude to me, ... and every request, as long as it was reasonable, was met," she wrote.

Such treatment is not representative of the prison life faced by the vast majority of the thousands of people arrested on accusations of involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, which was crushed last June 4 by Chinese troops.

While ordinary political prisoners generally have not been subject to physical abuse, some reportedly have been put in crowded, unsanitary cells with common criminals and rarely allowed outside for exercise and fresh air.

Release prisoners: Chinese dissidents

BEIJING, May 27. (Reuters): Three Chinese democracy activists have written an open letter to the country's leaders urging the release of political prisoners, in one of the boldest public expressions of dissent since June's bloody military crackdown.

Hou Dejian, prominent in last year's democracy protests, said in a recent interview that he, university teacher Gao Xin and economist Zhou Duo had all signed the letter.

"There are three of us now and we are using this letter as a thermometer to test the political heat," said Hou, a rock singer who left a successful recording career in Taiwan in 1983 to move to mainland China.

"I am not going to drive the mad dog (government) crazy," said Hou. "We want to build a new China not by blood but by reason."

The letter specifically demands the release from prison of former university teacher and dissident Lin Xiaobo, arrested after June last year.

"It asks the government to release all non-criminal detainees (arrested following the crackdown)," said Hou, a softly-spoken but eloquent English speaker.

The letter says that while people in many socialist countries have recently enjoyed a "peaceful evolution" toward democracy, Chinese are more repressed than at any time in a decade.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people were killed when troops backed by tanks shot their way into Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 3, meeting limited resistance from civilians armed with little but stones.

After the assault, authorities launched a nation-wide manhunt for fugitive dissidents. Thousands are believed to have been detained without trial and some protesters have been executed.

Hundreds of police stood by, ready to pounce on the first sign of trouble. Students at university say they are too scared to show sympathy for dissidents and civilians who died.

Western diplomats said the action of Hou and his fellow-hand China's leaders a dilemma.

If authorities suppress their activities and arrest them, they risk the ire of Western nations already appalled at China's human rights record. But if they do nothing, dissent may grow.

The imprisoned Liu and the three signatories of the letter were on hunger strike in Tiananmen Square the night the tanks thundered in.

Hou escaped briefly to refuge in the Australian embassy from where he emerged in August, but the three others were arrested.

US warns citizens as rebels kill police officer

MANILA, May 27. (Agencies): More than 3,000 troops are to be deployed throughout Manila by Monday to curb a spate of bombings and killings, according to a statement issued today.

Meanwhile, the United States has warned its citizens of a terrorist threat throughout much of the Philippines.

The Philippine military, citing "a breakdown of law and order," has formed an anti-terrorist force to combat communist Death Squads and right-wing army rebels.

Suspected communist rebels shot dead a Philippine police sergeant

today in the third guerrilla attack in the capital in a week, police said, just one day after the military announced the creation of its new elite urban combat brigade.

Sergeant Reynaldo Pascual was chatting with friends when three men approached and opened fire, hitting him in the head and neck, Sergeant Angel Santos said. He died instantly.

The three men walked away and escaped. Police said they suspected communist gunmen were responsible for the attack.

Roh ends emotional journey to Japan

SEOUL, South Korea, May 27. (AP): President Roh Tae-woo returned yesterday from an emotional three-day visit to Japan that he said would help end past enmities and launch a new era of partnership between the Asia neighbours.

Despite expressions of regret by Japanese leaders during his visit over Japan's military past, Roh acknowledged the visit may not have achieved many South Koreans' desire for a clear Japanese apology for its harsh 1910-45 colonial rule of Korea.

"I well understand what feelings my fellow countrymen have about what went on between our country and Japan in the past. No amount of apology can be fully satisfactory," Roh said after arriving at Seoul's airport.

As a symbol of the new relationship, Roh invited Emperor Akihito yesterday to make the first visit to South Korea by a Japanese emperor.

In carefully scripted meetings, the South Korean leader held talks with Akihito, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other top Japanese leaders and was the first South Korean head of state to address a joint session of Japan's parliament.

At a state banquet, Roh heard Akihito express his "deepest regret for the sufferings and pain" Japan inflicted on Korea during its colonial rule.

Roh also heard Kaifu express his "sincere remorse and honest apologies." The Japanese prime minister appealed for the two countries to maintain good relations as a basis for peace and economic development in the region.

At a news conference in Tokyo yesterday, Roh said Akihito's words of regret "were very significant," and said the Emperor and Kaifu had "expressed a common awareness about this unfortunate period between our two countries."

"With this, I feel that myself and the people of my country feel we can put the unfortunate period of our history behind us," Roh said. "In the past there have been some differences in views on how to interpret and look at history. But fortunately with my visit to Japan this time, South Korea and Japan came to gain a common awareness and understanding of the truth of history."

Fire extinguished

ULAN BATOR, May 27. (Reuters): A huge fire which raged for over two hours has been put out after it destroyed more than 600,000 hectares (1.48 million acres) of woodland, firefighers returning to the Mongolian capital said today.

The fire, in the provinces of Seleng and Bulgan to the north and northwest of Ulan Bator, cast a pall of smoke over the capital which blocked out the sun for days.

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990

Jagmohan removal indicates tactical change in Kashmir policy

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 27: By finally replacing Jagmohan as governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian government seems to have changed its tactical course in relation to the situation in the valley.

Girish Chandra Saxena, the new governor of the sensitive state, has intimate knowledge with the problems in Kashmir, having served earlier as chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). Later, he functioned as

security adviser to the cabinet secretariat on Kashmir and Punjab affairs.

The formal announcement about the acceptance of Jagmohan's resignation and Saxena's appointment in his place came late Friday night after the papers were signed by President R. Venkatraman, who is holidaying in Manali in Himachal Pradesh.

Jagmohan's appointment as governor for a second term in January this year was widely criticised. The clamour for his recall grew suddenly this week after Monday's firing by security forces on the funeral procession of

Mir Waiz Maulvi Farooq in Srinagar, in which a large number of people were killed.

Jagmohan flew in to Delhi Thursday night after being summoned by the centre and was later told clearly that he should step down. Later, he flew back to Srinagar to pack up. Political sources say he will be now nominated to the Rajya Sabha and that his services might be utilised by the government in some other assignment.

Even as the official announcement was being awaited, BJP president L.K. Advani held a press conference Friday afternoon

where he announced that Jagmohan had resigned. The BJP has always been opposed to any move to recall him and it was widely perceived that he was appointed at the party's instance.

The BJP reacted sharply to Jagmohan's removal and quit from the all-party advisory committee on Kashmir affairs. It was represented by its general secretary Kedar Nath Sahani.

Advani described the decision to recall Jagmohan as a "monumental blunder" and said

he was not convinced by the prime minister's explanation on the issue. But the party will continue to support the ruling National Front, he said.

Like many others, Advani believed that it was the sudden change in the attitude of the left parties that prompted the government to take the decision. Earlier this week, the left parties spoke out sharply in the Lok Sabha, seeking Jagmohan's removal and found support from Janata Dal leader Chandrashekhar on this demand.

Jagmohan said he had tried to restore nor-

macy in the Kashmir valley during the five eventful months he was in office, acting according to his perception. Now that he had become an object of controversy, he did not wish to become an obstacle in the process of negotiations, he said.

The fact remains that the troubled state is headed for a critical phase with the transition from Jagmohan to Saxena likely to prove crucial. The decision could not have been easier for the government, considering the difference of opinion on it even within the cabinet.

Liberian rebels step up offensive

MONROVIA, May 27: (Agencies) Liberian rebels fighting to overthrow President Samuel Doe have attacked the town of Kakata, only 64 km (40 miles) northeast of Monrovia, in their closest raid yet to the capital travellers said today.

Travellers on the main road into the interior from the capital on the Atlantic coast said they were stopped at a checkpoint at Careysburg, 32 km (20 miles) from Monrovia, and were told that it was too dangerous to go further.

They said a farmer had been killed on the way to his farm in the Kakata region but it was not known if the city had fallen to the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels led by former Doe associate Charles Taylor, who invaded the northeastern Nimba County in December from Ivory Coast.

Taylor has said he controls half of the West African country of 2.3 million people, the continent's oldest independent republic, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

He claims to command thousands of armed guerrillas.

The rebel leader has vowed to fight on until he ousts Doe, who came to power after the assassination of President William Tolbert in a military coup in 1980.

The rebels took the country's second port Buchanan, 120 km (75 miles) southeast of Monrovia, last weekend.

There have been continued reports of fighting in Buchanan. The government claimed on Thursday to have recaptured the town, which has a population of about 160,000.

Monrovia, a city of 425,000 people, was tense today after a week of panic buying virtually cleared shop shelves. There have been fistfights and brawls at depots where rice is distributed.

In Monrovia, about 500 members of the two tribes — the Gio and Mano — that have largely supported the rebels crowded into the local United Nations headquarters yesterday, pleading for protection from attacks by government forces according to Michael Heyn, chief UN representative in Monrovia.

Heyn said talks were under way with the government to assure their safety.

About 300 people had asked for help from the US embassy on Friday but were turned away.

The refugees said many of their friends and relatives have been killed or detained.

The US and other Western governments have appealed to Liberians to end the ethnic violence and called on Doe to make sure those responsible for the killings were prosecuted.

International organisations and the US Congress earlier condemned government forces, saying they had killed hundreds of civilians in their efforts to defeat the rebels.

Africa's herbal healers

Drugs that can cure or kill

BRAZZAVILLE, May 27, (Reuter): In an office crammed with jars and bottles, Congolese herbalist Charles M'Bemba sells a brown liquid reeking of distilled alcohol which he says cures almost every known intestinal ailment.

"Tetra," according to M'Bemba's literature, can be used to treat gastritis, ulcers and diarrhoea as well as migraine, menstrual disorders, coughs, bronchitis, pleurisy and earache.

Hundreds of miles away, in Ivory Coast, botanist Laurent Ake Assi is trying to identify a brown powder which police suspect may have killed someone treated by a practitioner of traditional African medicine.

A white envelope filled with bits of bark and powder and marked "to identify" has been in his office since January, but he remains baffled as to its contents.

"I grew up in a village where we only had traditional medicine and there were very few deaths," Ake said in an interview.

The real healers are very good — but there are a lot who don't know what they are doing.

That is the paradox of Africa's traditional medicine, which flourishes on a continent where many if not most people cannot afford the luxury of modern medicine but which is abundant in plants — many of them weeds — of proven medicinal value.

Africa is awash with people offering homegrown cures for virtually any ailment, from rashes to Aids,

often with a little magic thrown in.

Some treatments work, some don't and some can cause serious harm. On a recent tour of the botanical gardens in Ivory Coast's principal city Abidjan, Ake picked leaves and uprooted plants which he said could be used to stop coughing, treat cancer, prevent miscarriages and cure hypertension and insomnia.

In his herbarium, he has specimens of 18,000 plants collected from Ivory Coast and neighbouring countries. Some have been studied for their medicinal properties and a handful are used to make Western medicines, but the properties of most remain unknown — except to traditional African healers.

"The belief in these plants runs deep," Ake said. "At the hospital the patients get Western medicines during the day, but at night when the patient's parents come in they bring the traditional medicines and hide them under the bed."

Secrecy, lack of research and the sheer variety of African plants are among the factors that make doctors trained in Western practices sceptical of traditional cures.

"Traditional healers have a way of thinking that is not really rational," said Prosper Djessou, an Abidjan doctor familiar with traditional medicine. "They may prescribe the same potion for several illnesses and if it works, fine, if it doesn't it's not their problem."

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9 blacks killed in violent Natal

Mandela criticizes De Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May 27, (AP): Nine blacks were killed in a series of attacks in the violence-torn southeastern province of Natal, police said today.

Some 4,000 blacks have died in faction fighting in Natal since 1986, and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela yesterday accused President F.W. De Klerk's government of encouraging the violence in the region.

De Klerk also came under fire yesterday at a 50,000-strong rally of right-wing whites who vowed to resist his plans to dismantle apartheid.

Six people died and 60 huts were burned down in a battle near Richmond, 70 kms (45 miles) west of the port city of Durban, police said in the daily unrest report that covers the preceding 24 hours. Police Maj. Mike Lomhard said the killings were apparently a revenge attack.

Police said a man in a township outside Durban was killed in a "necklace" attack, in which a gasoline-soaked tire is placed around the victim's neck and set alight.

Also, two women were killed in separate incidents near Port Shepstone, a coastal city south of Durban, police added.

Mandela, speaking at a rally near Pretoria yesterday, said that "instead of stopping the violence (in Natal), the government is encouraging the violence."

Despite the thousands of deaths, there have only been a handful of prosecutions.

In a rare criticism of De Klerk, Mandela said, "we feel he is not strong enough to end the violence going on."

Mandela was referring to the fighting in Natal and the actions of the police, who have fired on black demonstrators several times in recent weeks, resulting in more than 20 deaths.

The main combatants in Natal are supporters of the ANC, the country's largest black opposition group, and members of Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organisation.

Both sides oppose apartheid, but the ANC supports confrontational methods such as a guerrilla campaign, economic sanctions and boycotts that Inkatha does not endorse.

Mandela also said De Klerk was not moving fast enough on his pledge to dismantle apartheid.

Since assuming power last Friday, De Klerk has launched a series of reforms and seeks to negotiate a new constitution with the ANC and other opposition groups that will include the country's 28-million black majority.

Some 50,000 whites yesterday rallied to protest the reforms, the largest pro-apartheid demonstration since De Klerk came to power.

Azries Treurnicht, leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, said whites would resist any effort to bring about a black government.

In Cincinnati, Anglican Church Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday that a rally in his native country that attracted 40,000 white supporters of apartheid was insignificant compared with the government's new, bold stand against apartheid.

"I'm not surprised by an apartheid rally, the surprising thing is that the government has broken lose from that kind of thinking," said Tutu. "The government is willing to take a risk."

■ **Lateshi:** A powerful secret society is trying to heal a split among South Africa's dominant Afrikaners, who are divided over government plans to scrap apartheid, according to a document leaked to a liberal Sunday newspaper.

The initiative could be a warning to reformist President F.W. De Klerk from the shadowy and influential Broederbond (Brotherhood) that he is moving too fast, too fast for white Afrikaners, the Johannesburg Sunday Star reported.

Ethiopia jets bomb rebels

NAIROBI, May 27, (Reuter): Ethiopian jets killed 12 civilians when they bombed the small towns of Seganeiti and Digma, the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) radio reported today.

The raid was the second within a week reported by the EPLF whose radio is monitored in Nairobi.

The bombed towns lie south of Asmara, capital of the northern Eritrea region. It is encircled by EPLF forces who have been fighting the Ethiopian government for 28 years.

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Marchers urged to end protest

BUCHAREST, May 27, (AP): Romania's leading intellectuals urged anti-communist demonstrators yesterday to end their 35-day occupation of Bucharest's main square, saying they had won "a moral victory" and the fight against neo-communism would continue.

The group for social dialogue issued a statement one day after demonstrators split over whether to continue the protest or to end their blockade of university square and switch to weekly protests.

A crowd of about 1,000 people filled the square cheering speakers who demanded the ouster of president-elect Ion Iliescu, a former Communist Party Politburo member.

The statement, published on the front page of Romania Libera, the most widely read independent daily, said continuing the protest would prolong the suffering of hunger strikers supporting the demonstration. Several of the 14 hunger strikers have been fasting for more than three weeks.

The group said the demonstrators had raised the anti-communist issue at home and abroad and collected millions of signatures on a petition calling for a ban on former high-ranking communists holding public office for 10 years.

Even if it take some time to achieve their demands, the intellectuals said the demonstrators "must be convinced they have obtained a moral victory and that the fight against communism will be continued in many other forms, but in a civic and democratic way."

Saudi-Japan co-production

JEDDAH, May 27, (AP): The "Voyage of Little Sindbad," a Japanese-Saudi Arabian co-production, will be released in Japan in September, the Jeddah-based Arab News newspaper reported today.

It is Saudi Arabia's first entry into international feature film production.

According to the English-language daily, about 180 theatres in Japan will be showing the film which cost \$10 million.

The movie recounts the journey of a Malaysian boy's search for his father that takes him to the desert kingdom, where the father works.



End hunger strike

Former dissident Doina Cornea (right) is embraced by one of the hunger strikers at University Square in Bucharest. Cornea asked the anti-government protesters to end their hunger strike while addressing the crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Use any means possible to crush'

Nicu admits ordering secret police to halt uprising

BUCHAREST, May 27, (UPI): Nicu Ceausescu, the playboy son of Romania's executed dictator, admitted yesterday, at the opening day of his trial on genocide charges, he ordered secret police to "use any means possible" against pro-democracy protesters.

Nicu, once known as the "Little Prince," wore sunglasses but looked gaunt and frightened as a judge read charges of genocide and weapons offences against him in a heavily guarded courtroom in Sibiu, where he was once Communist

Party chief.

When asked his name and address he answered in a murmur.

Under questioning, the 39-year-old former youth minister conceded telling local security forces to halt the rebellion against his father, Nicolae Ceausescu. But he said he later told them not to use gunfire.

"The city was in a state of war and (police) should use any means possible to crush the uprising," he said, recalling his initial instructions to the Securitate secret police in Sibiu.

He testified that he requested a military airplane to flee the country after his father was overthrown.

Widely regarded as a womanizer and a gambler, his extravagant lifestyle and rumoured cruelty made him one of the most hated men in Romania.

"They hate him as much as they hated Ceausescu," said deputy chief prosecutor Col. Miguel Floroscu.

Asked whether he was drunk during a telephone conversation with his father about unrest in the western city of Timis-

oara on Dec. 17, he said he was "a bit euphoric."

The first three prosecution witnesses described the minor roles they played as protests gained strength in Sibiu and around the country, but they scarcely touched on the central issues.

Nicu, known as an efficient administrator who protected Sibiu county from the worst excesses of his father's rule, claimed that it was public knowledge that he disagreed with his father's policies.



Nicu gestures during the first day of his trial in Sibiu May 26. (Reuter wirephoto)



Georgians mark

Thousands of Georgians held rallies in the republic's capital of Tbilisi on Saturday to mark the 72nd anniversary of their brief independence from the Soviet Union, witnesses said.

The republic declared independence on May 26, 1918, and stayed independent until Feb. 25, 1921, when it was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union.

About 5,000 people attended two pro-independence rallies sponsored by the National Forum, a union of about 40 political groups, and round table, comprised of four

other political organisations.

Leaders of the organisations spoke about what path will be best to lead the Georgian Republic to what they called real independence, and not simply declarations like the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Under cloudy skies, the crowds shedded themselves with brightly coloured umbrellas and paper hats, responding enthusiastically to speakers calling for unity in the struggle for independence. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bush vows to convince

Nato role for Germany

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, May 27, (AP): President George Bush said yesterday he will try to persuade Mikhail Gorbachev that there is no threat to the Soviet Union from a united Germany in Nato.

However, Bush acknowledged it will be difficult to sell that proposal.

"I think it's going to take a while before we have agreement on how a post-German unification Europe looks," Bush said.

"My job is to convince him that there is no threat to the Soviet Union from a united Germany in Nato and, I'm absolutely convinced there is no threat to him and I think it's stabilising," Bush said.

The President spoke briefly with reporters as he began a round of boat at a local country club. Bush is relaxing here for four days before meeting with the Soviet President in Washington. Gorbachev said Friday that if Germany is allowed to join the

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Kremlin will refuse to pull out its troops and might retreat in all talks to end the East-West confrontation in Europe.

But Bush, asserting that a united Germany should be in Nato, said, "I think really I can make the case that it is in their interest."

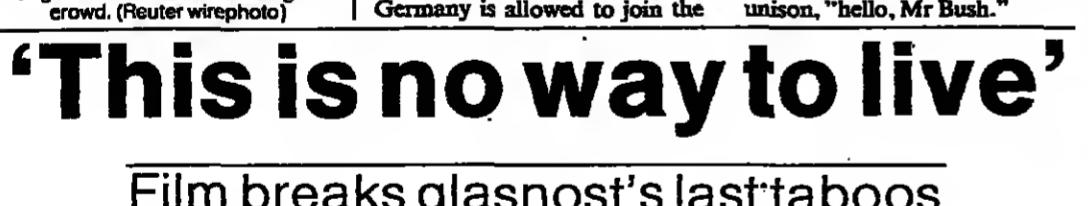
He acknowledged, however, "they have a different position than we do right now."

Bush, who arrived Friday at his oceanside estate, received a morning briefing from Robert Gates, his deputy national security adviser, on developments throughout the world, but then moved on quickly to recreation.

After a morning tennis game,

Bush piloted his boat, Fidelity, into the Atlantic Ocean. Swinging by the shore, he waved to tourists. A group of children, camping on a beach, yelled in unison, "hello, Mr. Bush."

Former dissident Doina Cornea (right) is embraced by one of the hunger strikers at University Square in Bucharest. Cornea asked the anti-government protesters to end their hunger strike while addressing the crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)



This is no way to live'

Film breaks glasnost's last taboos

MOSCOW, May 27, (AP): The film "This is no way to live" opens with criminals who rape and murder without mercy or regret. Then it makes the case that the Communist Party has been doing the same thing to the Soviet people for 72 years.

The new documentary by Stanislav Govorukhin a sensation before it has even opened at Moscow's cinemas, breaks most of the last taboos left in the glasnost era.

Govorukhin takes all the tragedies of communist rule, all the humiliation of daily Soviet life, and all his personal indignation at the fate of his country, and rolls them into an indictment so powerful that it would seem authorities had no choice but to ban the film.

But the authorities have changed. The Foreign Ministry staged a screening, Moscow City Council deputies have pledged to bring the movie to the capital's cinemas, and Govorukhin said that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev himself proclaimed it "wonderful" after a private viewing.

"For the life of me, I can't understand how Gorbachev could like it," he said, sounding distressed.

"This is no way to live" begins with graphic scenes of rape and murder in a style familiar to viewers of Leningrad TV's "600 seconds," a daily programme that frequently shows close-ups of burned or bloodied corpses and other grisly crime scenes.

Then it moves into part 2: "criminals in power."

Beginning with the 1918 murder of Tsar Nicholas II and other members of the royal Romanov family, it presents viewers with one Bolshevik crime against the people after another: the mass slaughter of the "bourgeoisie" under Lenin; the artificially created Stalin; the destruction of churches and liquidation of the priesthood; the distortion of people's consciousness with ideological propaganda; and the impoverishment of the vast, rich country through

idiotic mismanagement.

The scenes shift next to the "disgusting humiliation" of current everyday Soviet life, with its lines, shortages, poverty and moral bankruptcy, and the pitiful crooked people formed under such conditions and "70 years of the wrong genetic policy."

"The crimes of Hitler's regime cannot begin to measure up to all this in scale and cruelty, especially if you consider that it was done against one's own people," Govorukhin says in the film's narration.

Against footage of the post-World War II Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders, he raises the prospect of a similar national trial of communists, noting that it is the organisers of a crime who should bear the brunt of the punishment.

The Moscow news weekly predicted on Thursday that Govorukhin would be accused of "malice, mockery and painting everything black" by "the very people whom he proposes for a national trial."

Judging by two preliminary screenings and commentaries beginning to appear in the Soviet press, however, it is mainly Govorukhin's unscrupulous gloom, not his political views, that upsets audiences.

One viewer at the Foreign Ministry showing remarked that "we all already know we can't live this way. What we need to know is how we should live."

Govorukhin, a tall, balding man with a deep voice and dark bags under his eyes, offered no apologies for his downbeat views at question-and-answer sessions after the screenings.

"Personally, I'm a pessimist," he said. "I have no basis to think everything will get better quickly. There's no one in this whole country except absolute idiots who doesn't think tomorrow will be worse. And when people have no hope, and God has been taken away from them, what can you expect?"

Members of the Russian Congress saw the film earlier this week, and its influence is already felt on the floor.

Poles vote as strike looms

WARSAW, May 27, (Reuters): Strike leaders stepped up their challenge to the Solidarity-led government today, issuing calls for national rail stoppages that cast a pall over Poland's first fully elections in more than 50 years.

Sharply escalating the eight-day-old conflict over railway workers' pay, the strikers called a 90-minute warning strike for mid-day tomorrow and an indefinite halt to freight traffic from Tuesday evening.

The strikers set the stage for a collision course with the government which has refused to negotiate to pay. Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki says pay concessions would be suicidal for its economic programme and fatal

to Poland's fragile democracy.

"The government's position is well known and the government is not changing it," Mazowiecki told reporters today after voting near his Warsaw home in the nationwide local elections.

The strikers issued their call after an abortive attempt by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to mediate in the stoppage that is already blocking Poland's ports, choking maritime trade and reducing oil imports.

Walesa's failure was believed to be the first time he has been unable to control a strike since 1980 when he helped found the Solidarity trade union.

"Nothing came of it. Goodbye," Walesa said as he emerged before dawn from nearly four hours of talks with strike leaders in the northern city of Szczecin.

The strike, so far centred in northern Poland, had little impact on voting. But several voters interviewed outside Warsaw polling stations were angry about the strike.

"It's a knife in Poland's back," said a 60-year-old man who declined to give his name. He said he voted for Solidarity in the elections to new self-governing councils that will take over administration of villages, towns and cities from the state.

In a speech in Heidelberg, he said the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) should be given a new and more formal role as Eastern Europe turns to democracy and the importance of the rival alliances diminishes.

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, May 27, (Reuters): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called today for a new transatlantic partnership to create a Europe stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals.

In a speech in Heidelberg, he said the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) should be given a new and more formal role as Eastern Europe turns to democracy and the importance of the rival alliances diminishes.

Genscher said the potential of the CSCE framework should be fully exploited, with regular meetings of heads of government and ministers.

"Through the CSCE we can link the whole of Europe with America," he said.

"It is a question of a greater Europe, bound solidly and in solidarity with North America within the framework of a broad North Atlantic zone of close political friendship, common security, fruitful co-operation and stable prosperity," he said.

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Ties with US head for crisis: Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (Reuters): Israel's ambassador to the United States was quoted today as saying the Jewish state faced a severe crisis in relations with its closest ally unless it advanced Middle East peace efforts.

Yediot Ahronot, Israel's biggest-selling daily, quoted what it said was a secret cable from Ambassador Moshe Arad to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"Israel stands before a grave crisis in its relations with the United States which obliges it to re-examine its policies, particularly on contentious issues, chiefly the peace process and settlement," the cable said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on internal documents but a government source acknowledged relations were strained.

"The situation is difficult, there's no denying it," he said.

Arad's warning was leaked as ministers voiced satisfaction in a cabinet meeting that Israel had apparently blunted a drive by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to have UN observers sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army lifted curfews from all remaining West Bank towns and part of the Gaza Strip today. But clashes soon erupted in Gaza and troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

The United States angered Israel last week by saying it was ready to discuss sending a UN observer team. But at a UN Security Council meeting in Geneva on Friday and Saturday it blocked the idea of Security Council involvement.

Ties with Washington, which gives Israel \$3 billion a year, have deteriorated sharply since Shamir refused in March to accept US proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

His Labour coalition partners quit in response, leaving Shamir at the head of a hardline caretaker cabinet.

Relations cooled further after Shamir's government admitted secretly funding a Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of Jerusalem's old city and supported two new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

US criticism of Israel's handling of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories sharpened last week after a crazed Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers. Troops and Jewish settlers have killed 17 more and wounded about 900 in subsequent protests.

Israel continued to reject any UN mission to the occupied territories today and dismissed Arafat's speech to the special Geneva session of the Security Council as exploiting the killings for political ends.

"Israel will not agree to a mission of the United Nations which will come by virtue of a Security Council resolution or on behalf of it or to any UN delegation which will be connected with the subject of security in the territories," Arens told the cabinet.

Despite the ban on UN observers, unofficial watchdogs abounded at the weekend in a show of international concern.

Europeans consider sanctions

LONDON, May 27. (Kuwa): Several European countries, including most surprisingly the pro-Israel Netherlands, are understood to be seriously considering sanctions against Israel, following last week's massacre of Palestinian labourers, according to a report today.

The Observer newspaper said the suggestion was disclosed in Geneva, where the UN Security Council finished a special two-day session on the Palestinian crisis.

The paper described the emergency meeting which was addressed by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat as an "almost complete success" from the Palestinian point of view and left the Israelis "both angry and adamant."

Now Israel could face much harsher international condemnation and sanctions like those used against South Africa, it added.

In another article, the same paper warned that "not since 1973 has the atmosphere been so fraught with menace" in the Middle East.

"Nor is it possible at this stage to see how the growing aggression can be calmed down," the weekly indicated.



Israelis march for peace

About 20,000 Israelis demonstrated on Saturday night to condemn violence between Arabs and Israelis and to urge their government to increase efforts to achieve peace.

The protest was spurred by the mass killing of seven Arab labourers by an Israeli bus Sunday and the subsequent riots in the Israeli-occupied territories in which 18 Arabs were killed and nearly 900 wounded.

Author Amos Oz, the main speaker, told the quiet, candle-carrying crowd that lack of progress in Arab-Israeli peace efforts was to blame for the violence.

"Don't blame the entire people of Israel, don't even blame the hawkish right for the mad dog massacre, but blame the government for the stalemate in the peace process and blame ourselves for not intensifying and increasing the struggle for peace," Oz said. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gaza clash as curfew relaxes

Troops kill Arab youth

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (Agencies): The army eased its longest curfew on the occupied Gaza Strip today, and troops shot dead a Palestinian when clashes erupted in a crowded refugee camp, hospital officials said.

Arab reports said 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers as curfews confining people to their homes were lifted for more than half the 750,000 Arab residents of the strip.

Curfews were imposed on Gaza and the West Bank on May 20 after seven Arab labourers were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, setting off a wave of protest riots that left 22 dead and hundreds wounded.

Most curfews have been lifted in the West Bank, where two Palestinians were reported wounded today in a clash with soldiers in Jenin. In Gaza, about 300,000 Palestinians remained confined to their homes in Gaza City and surrounding refugee camps.

Palestinian reporters said most Gaza Arabs stayed away from jobs in Israel after leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged a strike until June 7 to protest the massacre. But the army reported a "steady stream of workers" was seen leaving for jobs in Israel.

In Jerusalem, a spokesman for the anti-Arab Kach movement said that Ami Popper, the 21-year-old Israeli suspected of murdering the seven Arab workers, was not on the membership roles of the organisation. But spokesman Baruch Marzel said Popper could have taken part in Kach rallies without belonging to the group.

Marzel was responding to a report in the daily *Yediot Achronot* saying Popper was linked to the group. Israeli officials have described Popper as "deranged" and upset by a failed love affair.

In Gaza today clashes erupted in the Deir Balah refugee camp and Israeli troops fatally shot 17-year-old Iyad Mohammed Abu Diab, camp residents said.

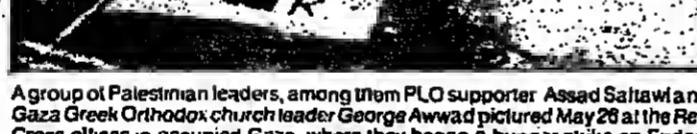
Diah arrived dead at Nasser Hospital with a bullet wound in the chest, hospital officials said. A military spokesman said the death was confirmed through the hospital.

Diah's cousin, Rula told the Associated Press that when the curfew order was cancelled, hundreds of youths confronted Israeli soldiers in the shanty town home of more than 10,000 population.

The camp was full of youths and soldiers. He (Diah) was shot in the chest while standing, she said, adding she did not know if he was taking part in the demonstration.

The security council adjourned and is expected to decide on Arafat's call later this week.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak



A group of Palestinian leaders, among them PLO supporter Assaf Salati and Gaza Greek Orthodox church leader George Awwad, pictured May 26 at the Red Cross offices in occupied Gaza, where they began a hunger strike on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Talk with Arabs

Israelis demo: fast continues

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (Reuters): Palestinians pressed on with a hunger strike to demand UN observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but Israel rejected the idea, saying even a visit by the UN secretary general might be unwelcome.

About 20,000 Israeli demonstrators in Tel Aviv called on the government to negotiate a settlement with Palestinians in the occupied territories. They said the stalled peace process created the atmosphere in which an Israeli killed seven Arabs last Sunday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat urged the UN Security Council in Geneva on Friday to send observers to the occupied territories after 22 Palestinians were killed and nearly 900 wounded in protests following the murder of the seven.

The security council adjourned and is expected to decide on Arafat's call later this week.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

of the two-day session yesterday.

"Israel still has a stranglehold on the decision-making process," complained Arab League ambassador Clovis Maksoud after the meeting was adjourned.

The special session was called in Geneva to enable Arafat, who might have been denied a US visa, to address the 15-member council. It is due to resume in New York on Tuesday.

In an hour-long speech on Friday, Arafat called for an emergency UN force to be set up to protect Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories where a 29-month-long Arab uprising exploded into some of its most serious violence after a lone Israeli gunman killed seven Palestinian labourers last Sun-

20,000 Jews expected per month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27. (AP): Immigration officials said today Israel expects the number of Soviet immigrants to increase to 20,000 each month starting this summer.

Gen Ben Ari, spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish agency which is responsible for immigration, told the Associated Press the rise in arrivals would result from increasing the number of Jews leaving by existing transit routes.

Ben Ari declined to go into details. Israeli officials have refused to discuss exact routes following threats by Arab extremists to block the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Finland agreed earlier this month to allow its soil to be used as a transit point. Most Soviet Jews have been coming via Romania and Hungary since the Soviet Union refused regular direct flights.

The new wave of Soviet immigrants has caused a controversy because of Palestinian fears that many of them will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The immigration also has affected Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, which has refused to renew formal diplomatic relations cut after the 1967 Middle East war. Washington also has warned against using US funds to settle Jews on occupied land.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said last week that Arab fears that Palestinians would be forced off their land was a "red herring" since only a few hundred Soviets have moved to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

However, several thousand have moved into housing complexes in occupied east Jerusalem which was captured from Jordan in the 1967 war and annexed by Israel which now considers it part of the Jewish state.

Officials expect about 150,000 Soviet Jews this year. So far about 40,000 have arrived.

Simcha Dinitz, head of the Jewish agency, was quoted in Israeli media Monday as saying 20,000 Jews would begin arriving each month because of an increase in the number and efficiency of transit routes.

■ Egypt stressed its opposition to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israeli-occupied areas in talks yesterday with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Passio.

Finland this month agreed to act as a transit point for Soviet Jewish migrants but President Matti Kekkonen said the decision would be reconsidered if they settled in the occupied territories.

Aid groups threatened

Afghan women afraid

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, May 27. (AP): Hidden behind a voluminous shawl, a young Afghan woman glanced around nervously before hurrying into a walled compound lost in a maze of dusty alleyways that snake through Peshawar.

She calls herself Farida because she's afraid to use her real name and because she's on a long hit-list compiled by self-declared Muslim fundamentalist protectors of Islamic purity.

"For 10 years I've been with these people. They are not like humans," Farida said of the radicals. "Sometimes they call me and say 'we want to kill you.'

Muslim fundamentalists who once aimed their fury at the Soviet Union now are targeting Western humanitarian aid groups and threatening "revolutionary action" against Afghan women who work in their programmes.

These tribunals have adopted a variety of names — the Council of Islamic Jihad (Holy War), Reformist Movement of Muslim Youth and Mujahed Brothers. But their membership is a mystery.

Leaders of the guerrillas trying to overthrow Afghanistan's communist-style government disavow any knowledge of them. Western diplomats can't identify them.

But they have made their presence known through letters warning Afghan women to disassociate themselves from these organisations.

More than 3 million Afghan war refugees live in camps around this frontier town at the foot of the Khyber Pass, the historical thoroughfare for invading forces en route to the Indian subcontinent.

Scores of humanitarian and organisations set up headquarters in Peshawar after Moscow sent its troops into Afghanistan in 1979 and refugees started streaming across the border into Pakistan by the hundreds of thousands.

Almost 12 years and billions of dollars later, the humanitarian aid groups are being battered by the same Islamic fervor once hurled at the Soviet Union, which withdrew its soldiers last year.

Letters signed by the groups and written either by hand or on a word processor began circulating last week in the dried-mud refugee camps.

One letter warned against the aid groups' "immoral activities, one of the characteristics and products of Western civilisations, which is not proper for Muslim women." The letter was referring to an English programme.

A week earlier, an angry mob of about 5,000 attacked the programmes run by Shelter Now International, financed by several Christian groups, and caused almost \$1 million damage.

The targets were a sewing centre for Afghan widows and a girls' elementary school at the sprawling Nasir Bagh, considered the showcase among the 250 refugee camps in the North West Frontier Province. The mob was urged on by clerics denouncing Western culture from loudspeakers surrounding the mosques.

Aid groups are trying to remain calm.

"No one wants to get hysterical," said Ted Albers, a spokesman for Achar, an umbrella group embracing 51 different aid groups. "Most refugees have nothing to do with this whole business."

Deep divisions and political rivalries among the seven resistance parties have triggered a lot of uncertainties for the refugees, Albers said. However, he said, there is no proof of a co-ordinated attempt to destabilise Western aid programmes.

One Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, suggested the growing hostility is a last ditch power play by the orthodox Muslims among the US-backed guerrilla leadership.

Once inside Afghanistan, Western diplomats and many Afghans say, some of the fiercest fundamentalists among the guerrilla resistance would fade into oblivion for lack of support.

Yet firebrand guerrillas like Hezbollah leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have benefited most from Western assistance.

Tales abound of how the charismatic Hekmatyar known for his heated anti-West rhetoric, threw acid in the face and on the arms and legs of unveiled Afghan women in the early 1970s before his flight to Pakistan.

Afghan President Najibullah has played up the fundamentalist card in his well-orchestrated propaganda campaign against the guerrillas, known as mujahideen or "Islamic Holy Warriors."

Women, particularly teen-age girls, in the Afghan capital of Kabul say they fear they would be forced back into purdah, the tent-like veil used by Muslims to hide women from strangers, if hard-liners like Hekmatyar or Abdul Rasul Sayyaf came to power before his flight to Pakistan.

Sayyaf, an orthodox Muslim and prime minister of the self-proclaimed government-in-exile, refuses to talk to female journalists and forces Western women in his presence to put on billowing tent-like veils.

Religious rhetoric in Algerian campaign

Afghan troops thwart attack

ISLAMABAD, May 27. (AP): Afghan government troops have thwarted an attack on the besieged garrison of Khost, killing 380 Muslim rebels, state-run Kabul Radio reported.

Seven soldiers and four civilians also died and 15 were wounded in yesterday's attack on the garrison, located 30 kilometres (15 miles) from the Pakistan border, said the radio report, monitored in Islamabad.

The radio also said rebels fired 22 US-made rockets into residential areas of the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing six people and wounding 12.

The Pakistani-based rebels have been trying for 12 years to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan.

The rebels, known as mujahideen insist they target only military installations but admit their rockets sometimes misfire and hit residential areas. More than 100 rockets have hit the capital in the past week, killing more than a dozen people.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said the rebels apparently stepped up their attacks on Kabul to coincide with preparations for a loya jirga, or traditional grand council. The assembly is expected to approve major changes in the constitution and loosen the grip of the communist-style People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan that seized power in a 1978 coup.

In Khost, the radio said, thousands of rebels launched a major attack on the town but were repelled by troops loyal to Afghan President Najibullah. "The attack was foiled by prompt counter-operations by the military forces and 380 extremists were wiped from the front line and large amounts of arms and ammunition were seized," it said.

Claims by both sides are often exaggerated and difficult to verify.

Vanunu appeal rejected

Israel's supreme court rejected the appeal of Mordechai Vanunu Sunday, upholding his 1988 conviction on three counts of espionage and treason.

Vanunu claimed at his trial he acted out of his moral opposition to nuclear warfare when he gave the Sunday Times of London details and photographs of Israel's top-secret Dimona plant deep in the Negev Desert. Vanunu, an Israeli Jew who converted to Christianity, worked as a technician at the plant for nearly 10 years.

Vanunu told the Sunday Times that Israel had secretly stockpiled between 100 and 200 nuclear bombs over the past 20 years.

As with his trial, the appeal was held in camera.

Vanunu's family and subsequent legal investigations revealed Vanunu, 25, was lured out of England by Israel's intelligence services and kidnapped in Rome, nearly two months before the Israeli government announced he was in Israeli custody. The government denied he was abducted abroad in announcing he was in custody.

Above Vanunu is hustled into court as a plain clothed security personnel (foreground) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

API to concentrate on social research

Training courses main objective

THE director-general of Kuwait based Arab Planning Institute (API) Abdullah Mohammed Ali was quoted as saying that the major objective of the institute is to provide training courses for Arab specialists and employees.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the institute introduced training programmes dealing with the economic and social development in addition to symposiums handling Arab development planning and organising seminars and meetings for Arab experts to debate issues related to Arab development.

Random storage causing fires

KUWAIT Municipality sources have said that random storage of high-risk wastes is the primary cause of fires and explosions which spread poisons and are detrimental to human health.

Commenting on an article published by a local daily on unguided storage of wastes and resultant jeopardy to human health, sources said that unscientific storage of dangerous wastes must be done far from residential quarters.

Sources added that a special site will be used for treatment of dangerous wastes which could otherwise spread poisons emanating from the slow decomposition of these wastes and potentially be the sources of fire outbreaks.

The sources said that these wastes are divided into two types, one that covers household, commercial and agricultural which are disposed of by underground burial, while the second type includes the dangerous wastes that pose considerable threat to human health and environment, and these are disposed of either through incineration or burial, in co-operation with the Environmental Protection Council.

Housemaid acquitted of planned murder charge

THE Criminal Court has acquitted a housemaid from the charge of premeditated murder of her employer.

The employer told the court that the maid had after only five days of work at her employer's house requested to leave her job and when she refused to let her go the maid charged at her with a knife in her hand meaning to stab her.

She claimed that the other two maids stopped the maid from stabbing her and they managed to hold her at 1.5 metres away from the employer.

However, the two housemaids testified that the maid did not mean to kill her employer but only intended to get her to approve her request to leave her job.



Omani envoy

Commerce and Industry Ministry Undersecretary, Abdulla Al Hamed received at his office the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait, Hisham Bin Salem Al Sayebi. The Ambassador handed him a message from the Omani Commerce and Industry Minister to Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khaleh relating to the commercial and industrial bilateral relations and co-ordination between the two countries.

Agriculture and husbandry

Contribution to GNP increasing

THE chairman of Kuwait's Agricultural Co-operative Societies Union Barak Nasser Al Noun was quoted as saying that the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Kuwaiti gross national product is increasing from one year to another and production has increased to more than double during the last decade.

In an interview with a local daily, the official attributed such an increase to the concern paid by the government to this sector particularly through its development plans.

He added that vegetable crops had gained a tangible concern during the past period and has emerged tops through the hefty amounts given by Al Wafra and Al Abdali farms.

Agricultural sector contribution to the gross national product (GNP) had increased from 0.4 per cent at the beginning of 1980 to about one per cent in 1989, Al Noun said.

He added that the sufficiency of some local product such as poultry and dairy products and some kinds of

vegetables are 45 per cent of the local requirements. He commented that this figure has encouraged the union to go ahead in order to enable the agricultural sector to achieve its objectives through the country's comprehensive development plan.

But he acknowledged that the difficult climatic conditions in the country and the scarcity of arable lands had underestimated the importance of field agriculture and led eventually to the adoption of greenhouse methods which are relatively costly.

But, however, these methods were sufficient to realise the required percentage towards the country's national security, Al Noun commented.

He added that needless to say animal husbandry was easier in Kuwait and animals were more immune to climatic volatility. He pointed out that the objective evaluation of the agricultural sector in Kuwait calls for paying more attention to animal husbandry, as there is at the moment about 400 animal raisers in the country.

Replying to a question, the official said if the country has to attain a qualitative leap in the livestock field, the necessary concessional loans should be made to animal raisers and the owners of poultry farms. He added that the state should contribute in the setting up of the organisational structure of such a sector by setting up model slaughterhouses and meat canning plants.

Apart from the above, the official has called for help from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) to conduct research that may help enhance the output of animal husbandry in addition to the provision of the necessary veterinary services to be extended to animal raisers and poultry farmers and the provision of marketing venues as well.

Meanwhile, the official has disclosed that the Livestock Co-operative Society had set up about 31 branches throughout the country for the distribution of fresh meat at co-operative prices taking into account the cost of local output.

Project talks

KUWAIT, May 27, (Kuna): Director General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Badr Mishari Al Houmadi today received visiting Rwanda's foreign minister.

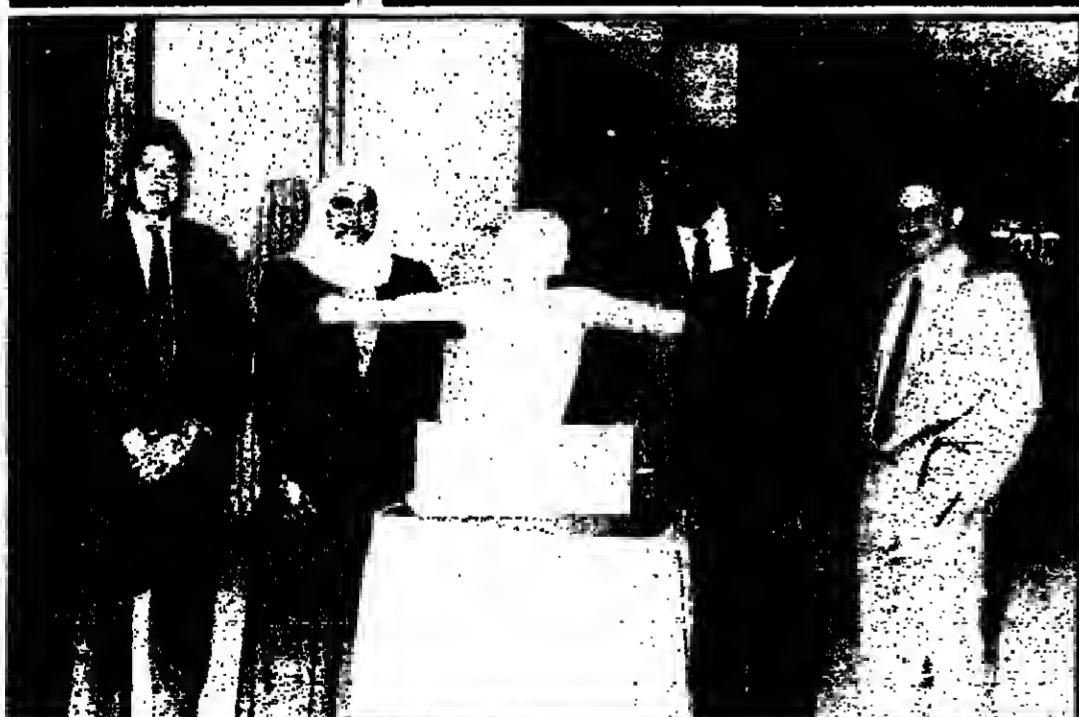
Talks focused on some projects in that African country that are under study in the fund.

Special summer clubs for students

ABDULMOHSEN AL-SAEED, the assistant undersecretary for information and students affairs at the Ministry of Education was quoted as saying that the development committee has recommended the setting up of specialised summer clubs for secondary stage Kuwaiti students.

In a press interview, the official said that the committee has empowered the Schools Activities Department at the ministry to prepare its conception for two specialised clubs to be devoted to the setting up of the necessary programmes for secondary students during the summer vacation.

Speaking of the joint study over the summer clubs, the official said that a study had been finalised and the pertinent recommendations were being referred to the authorities concerned. Recommendations, the official said focused on the types of activities during the summer vacation such as swimming, handicraft activities, recreational trips, the exchange of visits with summer clubs, the organisation of competitions among youth centres and the co-ordination among some scientific institutions and clubs for arranging the necessary training courses for summer clubs members.



Organon seminar

Organon, the pharmaceutical division of AKZO recently held a seminar on 'Depression and its treatment' at the Kuwait International Hotel. Approximately 35 psychiatrists, the country's very best in this field, attended the seminar where Dr A. Jawad from Organon Middle East Ltd (Cyprus) was the special guest.

Dr Jawad gave the audience a historic overview of drug therapy used in depression, emphasising the safety of these so-called anti-depressants especially in cases of overdose. Since the majority of depressed patients have thoughts of suicide, action

during the acute phase, Dr Jawad stated, the need for safe anti-depressants becomes apparent.

The meeting therefore concluded that... 'the newer anti-depressant drugs should be the first line of therapy for all depressed patients who are treated at home since older generation anti-depressants when used in excess doses are highly toxic.'

The local agent for Organon is Al Mojil Drug Company and the Gulf region is looked after by S. Azz Akhter from Dubai. Pictures shows AKZO executives during the seminar.

By Nash'at Al Agha

DR HUSSAIN AL MOMEN has told Seyassah that Kuwait Anti-Smoking Society has prepared a full programme for anti-smoking education to be implemented during the International Anti-Smoking Day on May 31, which will be celebrated under the title 'Non-smoking Children and Youth.'

He said that leaflets will be

distributed as part of the programme highlighting the parental and social responsibility for children who smoke because they fail to find a good non-smoking example to follow.

The leaflets also stress important facts such as the great harm sustained by non-smokers, children and others, who inhale tobacco-polluted air, and urge youths to quit smoking which is

responsible for 90 per cent cancer and 80 per cent of bronchitis.

The educational campaign also fights the harmful effects of tobacco, promoting ads which fill publications and newspapers and public places.

He said that tobacco-smoking threatens the lives of 2.5 million people each year and that in countries where smoking is common 20 per cent to 25 per cent of heart, arteries and brain stroke

cases are caused by smoking, and that children are highly endangered by smokers around them.

He pointed out that some research centres have said that 150 million children will be exposed to death from smoking related diseases, if the tobacco consumption rates persist as they are now.

He added that the centres also said that unborn babies to smoking mothers are also in great jeopardy while still in their wombs.

He stressed that smoking in Africa and Asia is wide spread among teenagers, and that girls who smoke are steadily increasing in numbers as recorded in the post WWII era, adding that even after the implementation of anti-smoking campaigns, girls smokers are found to be slower in breaking their habit compared with male smokers.

Shops for Asians doing roaring trade

Filipinos biggest spenders

AS the Asian community has been growing in Kuwait in recent years, shops specialised in selling them commodities have also been increasing. The area in the capital around Sheraton Hotel and the General Post Office has been almost completely occupied by shops specialised in selling Asian commodities for Indians, Sri Lankans, Filipinos and other Asians who gather in large numbers on Fridays and Sundays to buy for bankruptcy as a big surplus is existing in the market. Profits have naturally dropped. Only big old shops involved in directly importing Asian food still manage to secure good profits.

At the Karnak Commercial Centre, which almost wholly caters to Asians, one of the few Arab shop owners, Hesham, said that there is a very good purchasing power in the market but added that it mostly comes from Filipinos. Indians and other Asians have a lower tendency to spend money. Filipinos spend much on food and clothing and they love to buy jeans and sport clothes, Hesham added.

An employee at a Sri Lankan restaurant in that Commercial Centre said that the restaurant



Policemen honoured

The Police Academy held yesterday's function to honour its outstanding students who topped the first, second and third years at the academy. Director-General of the Academy, Brig. Khalid Al Munayes attended the function and gave away prizes to outstanding students. A number of high ranking academy officers also attended.

Picture shows Munayes with the students.

Telephone directory

THE Ministry of Communications has distributed copies of its new telephone directory, which is newly designed and indexed to facilitate usage by subscribers.

According to a ministry official, the new telephone book has been produced in the pattern of 'yellow pages' used around the world, and has so far been in great demand among subscribers which is expected to ease off pressure on the 101-information service.

Diploma warning

KUWAIT, May 27, (Kuna): People with fake diplomas will face legal action if discovered by the higher education ministry, an authorised source at the ministry said Saturday.

The source told Kuna that the ministry will take stiff measures to put an end to this problem, particularly when there was not enough actions taken in such cases in the past.

GCC meeting

RIYADH, May 27, (Kuna): A technical committee, comprising undersecretaries of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council began its third meeting here today.

They will review several issues including preparation of a unified directory for concepts and terminologies of planning as well as the administrative and legislative procedures in the planning field in the member states, an official source said.

Free unloading system praised

Bank guarantee scrapped

THE director of supermarkets department at the Kuwait Municipality Mohammed Al Mishan has praised the recent decision of free unloading system at the central vegetables and fruits market in Shuwaikh area that will start from the beginning of next month. He added that new system aims at offering chances to all merchants, who will be allowed to occupy stalls for three days and then shift to other stalls.

The system will put an end to the monopoly of some merchants who occupy certain stalls at the market. The system will give merchants the chance to circulate their imports. This will also increase the imports of vegetables and fruits and reduce prices.

The merchants will compete with each other in quality and prices for the favour of consumers. The system was decided after several months of study by the municipal affairs committee. The system was also referred to the Council of Ministers and approved after four months last April, he said.

Al Mishan pointed out that system will exempt importers and merchants from paying the bank guarantee of KD 10,000 that they are paying at the present time. Merchants will get one or more stalls at the market according to their imports against symbolic prices and conditions (500 fils per each imported ton of vegetables or fruits). He added that stalls will be distributed to merchants under supervision of a four-member committee from the municipality and the ministry of commerce as well as merchants.

Al Mishan added that the new system obliged merchants to make legal residence permits for their workers under their sponsorship. He added that the system will provide a good opportunity for consumers to select best quality of vegetables and best prices.

Each kind of vegetable or fruit will be displayed in separate stalls which means more co-ordination and organisation. The trailers will unload their goods at midnight till 6am when market is closed.

The consumers will not notice crowding caused by unloading workers during shopping. He added that all buildings at the market will be subjected to this system. The municipality will maintain building No. 3 at the market and provide it with required utilities. He added that municipality will build similar supermarkets for vegetables in every governorate. Tenders for these projects will be published in July, he added.

Anti-smoking day to be celebrated May 31

By Nash'at Al Agha

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Tuberculosis under control in Kuwait

Vaccination vital

HEAD of the Tuberculosis Combat Unit at the Chest Diseases Hospital, Doctor Mohammed Kamal Abdul Ghani stressed that tuberculosis in Kuwait is under control due to the implementation of well-planned programmes.

Interviewed by a local daily he stated that the rate of tuberculosis infection in Kuwait has reached to .08% per cent last

year. He described this rate to be identical to such rates in advanced states which indicates the high success of the programme achieved by protecting families and children from tuberculosis infection despite the influx of domestics.

He pointed out that the annual rate of tuberculosis infection among Kuwaitis

reached 11.31 for each 100,000 during the last year. The number of newly detected tuberculosis cases among Kuwaitis was 12.25 for each 100,000 during 1988. On the other hand the number of total tuberculosis cases discovered in Kuwait in 1989 reached 280 of which 342 cases detected among new expatriate arrivals in the country.

Abdul Ghani described groups considered to be highly subjected to infection as those complaining of chest symptoms and children who have positive reaction towards the disease. He stressed that vaccination against tuberculosis is vital and pointed out that vaccination against the disease give the body approximately 80 per cent protection.

Legal Clinic

Should you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1983 on visa No. 18 as an office boy. For the past six and a half years, I have been working with the same company. In July 1989, I renewed my contract for two years.

My salary has remained the same since I joined the company but my workload has increased. I work from 7.30 am to 3 pm and 3.30 pm to 9.30 pm or 10 pm, about 13 hours per day. I am also not paid overtime on holidays or Fridays. I clean the office, serve coffee to guests and staff; assist the store-keeper and help in the workshop.

I would like to find another job but my employer doesn't want to give me a release. I want to find another job before going back to Sri Lanka. How can I get my release? Do I have the right to claim air fare?

Vernon AS you have worked with the company for six years you can seek a transfer of residence, or cancel the residence and leave the country. If you plan to transfer your residence, you don't have the right to claim air ticket but if you are leaving the country for good, you can get the ticket according to the rules.

You can claim overtime for working on Fridays and official holidays, but you must prove all these things by eye witness testimony or a written document saying that you had been asked to work overtime.

If you resign and want to cancel your visa, you are entitled to receive only half of the benefits. According to the end of service indemnity rules, a person who resigns is entitled to receive seven and a half days pay for the first five years and half months salary for the sixth year.

OUR three year contract ends in July. How will the vacation leave, sick leave, indemnity etc. be calculated? Our salary is \$300 plus \$50 food allowance. The payment is in dollars, based on the exchange rate on the last day of closing the payroll. Drivers receive KD10 allowance.

S.G.T. If you feel that your payment was under-calculated, you can check the exchange rate for dollars; if there is a difference in the amount that is being paid on the basis dollars, you can claim the difference.

If you did not avail leave, you can ask for cash in lieu of vacation.

Sick leave is for extraneous circumstances; such leave can be claimed only in case of illness. There is no law which gives the right to claim sick leave payment at the end of a contract.

If you fall ill, however, you have the

right to avail sick leave. If you want to resign, you must give a notice according to the terms of your contract. If the notice period has not been mentioned, then you must go by the labour law, giving 15 days notice before the expiry of the contract.

At the end of the contract, you have the right to get all the benefits stated therein.

I CAME to Kuwait on a two year contract in October 1988 on visa No. 18. I wish to go back to my country before the completion of the contract. My visa expires at the end of September. Do I have to pay for the return air ticket or does the employer bear the cost according to the labour law?

A. Mukadam YOU are talking about limited contract. Article 53 of the Labour Law stipulates: "If the contract is made for a fixed period, and either of the two parties terminates it, while there is nothing among its terms dealing with such a case, the party terminating the contract shall compensate the other for any loss incurred by him. If such a termination is made by the employer, for reasons other than those stipulated, he shall compensate the labourer for any loss incurred by him, with oversaturation of the commercial custom, the nature of work, the term of the contract, and in general all circumstances under which the said loss is realized, provided that the amount of compensation shall not exceed a wage balance equivalent to the unexpired period of contract under any case whatsoever."

If the termination is made by the labourer for reasons other than those specified in Article 57 thereof, the labourer shall be liable to compensate the employer for the loss incurred by him as a result of the termination of contract."

If you terminate the contract, the company has the right to seek damages from you. Try to finalize the matter with the company by explaining the circumstances to leave the country.

OUR employer disregards labour laws. He told us that he must first follow his company policy, which has not been stated in our contract. What is company policy?

Our salary has been computed by 30 days instead of 26 days. Is this correct?

Socrates B. A. COMPANY policy organizes the relationship between employee and employer, based on Kuwaiti Labour Law, giving more rights than the labour law or similar rights, but not less than those

specified in the Labour Law.

A company cannot follow a policy that contradicts the labour law; such policies are forbidden. You can check the policy and see what can be done about it.

Monthly salary must be paid lumpsum at the end of each month. To arrive at the daily payment rate, the salary must be computed by 26 days.

I HAVE enclosed copies of my passports. On which date do I complete 10 years residence? On which date will I complete three years service with my present employer?

M.A. Abdul Karim I WENT through your passport; you will complete 10 years on July 11, 1990, according to your visa which was issued on 11/7/80, and you entered Kuwait in August. This is calculated from the date of issuing the visa.

The 10-year stay depends on whether you stayed in Kuwait on the same visa or left the country to re-enter on a fresh visa. If you cancelled the first residence at any time during the ten-year period and came back on a fresh work permit, the period will be calculated from the date of the second entry.

You will complete three years on June 7, 1990.

A MARRIAGE took place between a Muslim boy and girl in Kuwait four years ago with the consent of the parents. Several times the couple were separated and united over the four-year period. Their differences seem to be irreconcilable. The girl has asked for a divorce; the boy has refused. He has threatened to go to the police on a lawyer's advice.

1. What is the legal procedure to get divorce?

2. Can the police force her to live with her husband against her will?

M.A.S. LEGAL action can be taken through the Kuwaiti court, if both parties are in Kuwait; the court will implement the law of the husband's country. There must be a strong reason to seek a divorce, which can be proven in a court of law.

In Kuwait, the law — police — does not compel the wife to live with her husband.

The best procedure would be to file a divorce case, and if reconciliation is not possible, a judgement can be obtained; the girl seek the divorce after the normal period of separation, according to her country's law.

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Call to streamline vehicle transfers

THE joint economic committee emanating from the Council of Ministers has requested the General Traffic Department to lay down constraints for the transfer of vehicle ownership, in response to frequent requests from automobile agencies and unions.

This measure is promoted by the practice of some who buy cars in instalments then travel aboard or sell the car before settling all instalments. Thus the selling agency is unable to recover dues or repossess the vehicle.

The GTD has required all those wishing to transfer the ownership of their vehicles to another person to obtain a clearance certificate from the automobile selling agency, as a pre-requisite for the transfer of vehicle ownership. Although this conflicts with article five of the traffic law, which stipulates that the GTD is an executive party, and consequently plays no role between the automobile selling agency and the buyer, and its role is confined to vehicle ownership registration.

The paper said that quite a few have benefited from this article and managed to get judicial rulings allowing them to transfer ownership to others, and that the GTD has enforced these rulings without obliging the buyer to submit a clearance certificate.

Moral crimes higher in Sabahiya

THE acting commander of Sabahiya Police, Captain Mohammed Al Harbi has said that the most significant crimes and violations reported in Sabahiya area are those committed by maids and servants and by juvenile delinquents. He referred the increase number of crimes committed by maids to the increase in numbers who carry different social values and morals than that of local society.

The contradiction between values and traditions between maids and their employers cause clashes between them and push maids to hurt their employers or to commit suicide.

He also referred some of these crimes to bad treatments received by maids from their employers. He added that there are some limited communities of bachelors living in Sabahiya area. But most crimes and violations committed by them are related to rents and some of them are moral ones, he said.

Commenting on crimes committed by juvenile delinquents, Capt. Harbi said that these crimes are common in Sabahiya area. He referred these crimes to family disputes, hard social circumstances and to polygamy which makes fathers unconcerned about their children or to control their behaviour outside the house. They might have friendships with bad friends and commit crimes. He added that police centre of Sabahiya runs night and day patrols to protect the security of the area from these juvenile delinquents.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THREE may keep a secret, if two of them are dead — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

United Germany in Nato

Gorby remarks compromising

MOSCOW, (Reuter): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is talking tough about keeping a united Germany out of Nato but his latest remarks also contain the elements of a compromise.

During a visit by French President Francois Mitterrand on Friday, Gorbachev, in remarks to reporters, came out fiercely against full Nato membership for a united Germany. He said this would upset the delicate balance of power in Europe.

But he implied that if the West revised its strategy and if the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) acquired structures to head off emergencies in Europe, his "nyet" to a Nato Germany might not be so emphatic.

Suggested

He suggested at one point that a united Germany could, like France, be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's political organisation but not of its military command.

West German officials reacted sceptically on Saturday to this idea, saying that Bonn would study it carefully but that the concept was unlikely to find much favour in West Germany.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the CSCE process, launched in Helsinki in 1975, might be the fig leaf behind which Moscow could hide its embarrassment over losing its ally East Germany.

"In Eastern Europe the old structures, such as the Warsaw Pact (Soviet-led military alliance), are falling apart, said a senior Western diplomat who has worked on the German issue.

"But Gorbachev must want to do something to keep these countries in a security framework before events run away from him. There could be clashes between them over territory.

"If we give the CSCE process a new weight, with structures to prevent crises, it could be the way to provide a new stability in Europe and address this Soviet concern.

Ideal

He said the idea of boosting the CSCE was being discussed in the whirlwind of diplomatic consultations between presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers from Washington, Bonn, Paris, Moscow, London and East Berlin.

Gorbachev, who gave a joint news conference with Mitterrand, said that if the West continued to insist on Germany being part of Nato, Moscow would have to reconsider its overall stance on European disarmament and co-operation.

But then he appeared to suggest that these same processes could be used to solve the problem of Germany's military role.

"I am raising these questions in such sharp terms not to try to scare all of you... I am saying all this for one purpose. We must hold together, bearing in mind the interests of the Germans, the Europeans and the entire world community.

"We must find the right solutions that would not weaken the positive processes in international relations on the European continent but on the contrary would reinforce them.

"Here the (French) president and I devoted a lot of time to ways to synchronise the establishment of European security arrangements," Gorbachev said. He said this included creating organisations to "prevent emergency situations."

"I asked him (Mitterrand) why a unified Germany cannot be in a situation like France, which is a member of the political organisation of Nato but not of its military organisation. It is also an option," he said.

Revise

Gorbachev suggested that Nato should revise its strategy to a defensive instead of offensive one. He said the Warsaw Pact had already done this.

He reminded his audience that Moscow, which is fighting a united Western front and the Germans themselves on the Nato issue, still had one trump card — its rights as one of the four Allied powers which defeated Nazi Germany in World War II.

"On the basis of those international legal acts the Soviets Union will remain where it is now, with its group of forces," he said, referring to 380,000 Soviet troops based in East Germany.

As one of the victorious four — the others were France, the United States, and Britain — Moscow is participating in "Two plus four" talks on German unity with East and West Germany. It is the only participant which opposes German membership in Nato.

A Soviet journalist who writes on European security issues and has frequent access to high officials said Moscow could soften its position on keeping Germany out of Nato "if there is a Nato acceptable for us, with a revised strategy."

"But the key to German unity is building a centre for prevention of conflicts in Europe," he said.

This meant there must be a transition period in which these conditions could be met and Gorbachev could sell the idea to conservatives at home, many of whom, like Politburo member Yegor Ligachev, were dubious about the prospect of Germany in Nato.

"There is no better way to get rid of Gorbachev now than for the West to push too hard on the Nato issue," the journalist said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1533 — England's archbishop Cranmer pronounces Anne Boleyn's marriage to King Henry VIII valid.

1568 — Duke of Alva confiscates properties of William of Orange and other nobles opposing Spanish rule in the Netherlands.

1674 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I declares war on France.

1741 — Treaty is signed between Spain and Bavaria to partition Hapsburg lands.

1812 — Russia, by treaty of Bucharest with Turkey, obtains Bessarabia and withdraws demand for Moldavia and Wallachia, and peace enables Tsar to act against Napoleon Bonaparte.

1864 — Austria-Hungary's Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian lands in Vera Cruz, Mexico, to become emperor.

1919 — Armenia declares its independence.

1940 — Belgium capitulates to Germany in World War II — British and French troops begin evacuation from Dunkirk, France.

1961 — Paris-Bucharest Orient Express train makes final trip after 78 years.

1971 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft toward planet Mars.

1974 — Coalition government in Northern Ireland collapses as economy is crippled by extremist Protestant groups strikes.

1976 — United States and Soviet Union sign treaty limiting size of underground nuclear explosions set off for peaceful purposes.

1979 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat announces opening of air corridors between Egypt and Israel.

1984 — Iran's President Ali Khamenei warns Arab states in Gulf area to stay out of Iraq's conflict with Iran or "bear the consequences."

1986 — The world's two most experienced Soviet spacemen take a nearly four-hour walk from their Salyut-7 orbiting station.

1987 — Senior law enforcement officials from nine nations gather in Paris to explore expansion of international co-operation against terrorists.

1988 — Yugoslav government introduces new austerity programme that includes devaluation of dinar and massive price increases.

Kashmir: bone of contention

There is solution without war

Pakistan and India have gone to war twice over Kashmir. The same issue has again taken an ugly twist and both these countries seem to be on the brink of yet another war. India has accused Pakistan of fomenting the trouble but the latter denies any involvement. Khaled Al Maccena, a prominent Saudi journalist, in a special article to the Arab Times, looks at the brutal truth behind the uprising in Kashmir.

THE Indian sub-continent could explode at any moment and take with it the lives of its undeserving poor. As if the pain of being born into poverty and hardship, such as many from the sub-continent face, is not enough earthly suffering. The political reason to fill the gutters of India with blood-stained hate, the reason, or lack thereof, for another futile war is Kashmir. This is the former princely state which has been a bone of contention over which both Pakistan and India have dragged their helplessly obedient sons to their death in two previous wars. And still, they have not learned their lesson. They have not counted the dead of the past nor forecast the numbers to die in another war. Another tragically useless and criminally irrational war.

While Europe is moving towards peace, freedom and stability, the pathetic sub-continent, turns its Congressional myopia from problems of hunger, homelessness and religious persecution to putting Kashmir up for grabs. While the Soviet Union is withdrawing troops from all over the world, and even the inflexible Pentagon is seriously worried about budget-cutting peace, India and Pakistan are gearing up for conflict. It must not happen. For the sake of those who will die and receive the emptiness of the army's honours, the nothingness of a military funeral, this must not happen. We must repeat it. In the name of humanity, this must not happen.

The Indian government's decision to appoint Jagmohan as governor of Kashmir has backfired and he has by now become a hated symbol of repression.

To make matters worse, political leader of various shades and opinions have joined the fray and the Kashmir debate now strays under a war psychosis with V.P. Singh, an honorable man by all accounts, giving his two cents worth. Accusations and counter accusations are cross-fired over the border as Pakistan is proclaimed the arch-villain since it is deemed to be the main supporter of the uprising by the Kashmiris. Fingers were even pointed at some other countries. The whole issue has been marred, the facts of the issue drowned in words like "destroy" and "force them to their knees" or "capitulate."

The Kashmir uprising has then been given an ugly twist and communicated by spreading fear and insecurity among non-Muslim Kashmiris and giving them bleak encouragement to leave their homes and flee the state.

Four Indian human rights organizations namely, the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), the Citizens for Democracy, the Radical Humanist Association and the Manav Ekta Abhiyan appointed an eight member team including retired Justice Tankunde and Justice Sachar to make an assessment of the situation in Indian-held Kashmir. The group visited Kashmir in March and April 1990 and met a cross-section of people.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the group contained in its report are summarized below:

1) There are no overt threats held out to the minorities from local Muslims. In quite a few cases the Kashmiri pandits, going out of the valley, have left their house keys with their Muslim neighbours.

2) According to one view, those who were leaving the valley had either over-reacted to the situation or had other reasons such as winter, life under curfew and the closure of banks, schools, post offices etc.

3) The Muslims of Kashmir genuinely want the Kashmiri pandits to return to the valley. There has not been a single case of looting or arson of non-Muslim property.

4) According to reports, certain interested elements were propagating that all those non-Muslims who migrate out of the valley to Jammu or elsewhere would be given free plots, cash

and other facilities. There was thus a deliberate attempt to communalise the situation by setting up relief camps outside the valley.

5) While non-Muslim officials in relief camps were getting their salaries, Muslim employees who were in the valley and could not attend their duties because of curfew were not receiving any payments. Similarly compensation has been paid to the families of non-Muslims victims of the militants but not to the families of Muslim victims.

In this respect, checks have been made by a congressional committee into the allegation of the "foreign inspired" uprising and the findings have revealed that it was not inspired by Pakistan but is itself an indigenous Kashmiri movement. This in fact was revealed to me by Ayyub Thukar, a Kashmiri nationalist who was imprisoned by the Indian authorities and subsequently escaped to espouse the Kashmiri cause.

"India," he said, "has tried to confuse the issue and make people believe that is a border dispute between India and Pakistan. It is not. It is an international problem, dating back to 1948 and the UN resolutions concerning Kashmir are still alive on the file."

Another confusion that India has tried to disseminate particularly in the Arab and Muslim states is that by helping the Kashmiri problems will be created for Indian Muslims. The Indian Muslims are separate; Kashmir is an international problem to be solved under the auspices of the United Nations.

I had to do some research to verify the statement of Thukar and to my surprise not only are his claims on the files but India's stand in Kashmir rests in black and white and their authenticity is undeniable. In this connection India's commitment of a plebiscite of the people of Kashmir is quite clear.

1. Our view which we have repeatedly made public is that the question of accession in any disputed territory or state must be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people and we adhere to this view."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (in telegram No. 402 Prinm-227 dated 27 October 1947 to the Prime Minister of Pakistan repeating the telegram addressed to the Prime Minister of Great Britain).

2. "...the people of Kashmir would decide the question of accession. It is open to them to accede to either Dominion or... — Jawaharlal Nehru (in telegram No. 225 dated 31 October 1947 addressed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan).

3. "We have not opposed at any time an overall plebiscite for the State as a whole..."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (in a telegram dated August 16, 1950 addressed to the UN representative for India and Pakistan:

4. "But so far as the government of India is concerned, international commitment in regard to Kashmir stands."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (statement in the Indian Council of States: May 18, 1964)

5. "People seem to forget that Kashmir is not a commodity for sale or to be bartered. It has an individual existence and its people must be the final arbiters of

their future."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (report to the All-India Congress Committee, 6 July 1951: The Statesman, New Delhi July 9, 1951).

6. Kashmir is not a thing to be banded about between India and Pakistan but it has a soul of its own and an individuality of its own. Nothing can be done without the goodwill and consent of the people of Kashmir.

— Jawaharlal Nehru (Statement in the Indian parliament, March 31, 1955).

7. "We had given our pledge to the people of Kashmir, and subsequently to the United Nations: we stood by it and we stand by it today. Let the people of Kashmir decide."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (Statement in the Indian Parliament, February 12, 1951).

8. "It, after a proper plebiscite, the people of Kashmir said, 'We do not want to be with India; we are committed to that. We will accept it, though it might pain us. We will not send any army against them. We will accept that, however, hurt we might feel about it, we will change the constitution if necessary.'

— Jawaharlal Nehru (Statement in the Indian Parliament, June 26 1952).

9. I want to stress that it is only the people of Kashmir who can decide the future of Kashmir. It is not that we have merely said that to the United Nations and to the people of Kashmir; it is our conviction and one that is borne out by the policy that we have pursued, not only in Kashmir but everywhere."

"I started with the assumption that it is for the people of Kashmir to decide their own future. We will not compel them. In that sense, the people of Kashmir are sovereign."

— Jawaharlal Nehru (Statement in the Indian Parliament, August 7, 1952)

So after all these years, after open admission by the Indian government of election rigging and political chicanery in the state of Kashmir, to deny people their basic right of self-determination would be to negate all the principles to which India adheres and is inscribed in its Constitution.

Instead, therefore, of pointing an accusing finger at Pakistan and engaging in a war of hysteria which might trigger a no-return situation and once again pit the Phantoms against the MiG's, a drastic imperative is needed. The war psychosis generated by certain extremists should also be made clear to those who advocate war that there will be no long term gain, except an increase in the misery and agony of the already large segment of the populace which lives in sub-human conditions steeped in superstition and ignorance.

For Pakistan too, the war would be disastrous and will set it back at least a decade. A nation with three million refugees can hardly afford a war. A nation that has yet to eliminate the word "Mohajir" cannot afford a war. A nation that has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world could do much better for its people to go to war. There is no glory in a war that does not have to happen.

It is therefore of paramount importance that the government of Delhi be bold enough to tackle

the issue squarely and not to be hedged in or give in to certain factions elements for short term political popularity. Electoral ballot papers must not be marked with the blood of Kashmiris.

The recent well-publicized meeting of the Indian Foreign Minister Gujral with his Pakistani counterpart Yakub Khan apparently failed to produce any result. The basis for any talks have yet to be put forward although diplomats at the United Nations say that talks can be held also within the framework of the Simla agreement of July 2, 1972, which did not alter the status of Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory.

Para 6 of the agreement lists a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir as one of the outstanding questions awaiting a settlement.

— Para 4 (i) talks of a "Line of Control" as distinguished from an international border. Furthermore, it explicitly protects "the recognized position of either side." The recognized position of Pakistan is the one which is recognized by the United Nations and the world community in general.

Article 1 (iv) obviously refers to the Kashmir issue when it talks of "the basic issues and causes of conflict which have bedeviled the relations between the two countries for the last twenty-five years."

The Kashmir crisis must not be allowed to escalate and the only way this can be prevented is to allow a plebiscite. It is widely believed today that if this most logical step were implemented, it would see the majority of Kashmiris opting for an independent state maintaining good relations with India and Pakistan. Why is India so petrified of a plebiscite.

And while on the subject of Kashmir and its relations with Pakistan, another issue comes to mind; that of the Indian Muslims.

The enmity towards the Indian Muslim is a result of the pre-contrived theory that Muslims were responsible for the break-up of India which resulted in bloody massacres and thousands of Muslims and Hindus losing their lives and property in a war of untold suffering. But a new study of the Partition of 1947 by the noted Indian scholar H. S. Seervai, states, contrary to previously published opinions, that the unity of India was not sabotaged by Muhammad Ali Jinnah but by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister who constantly miscalculated by refusing to take Jinnah seriously. At one stage, Jinnah would have gladly kept India whole as long as Muslim rights were recognized.

I may have digressed but I believe it is worth pointing out that the Indian Muslim is categorically not to blame for what the Kashmiris are doing or for what Pakistan does. The media should not give space to those who slander and defame them. Tipu Sultan should not be considered a villain as he has been described. He is as much a villain as Subhas Chandra Bose.

It is indeed heartening to know that many in India see war as a morally devoid solution to the problem. Some have even asked for negotiations with the Kashmiris. A leader of the BJP admitted to our correspondent that Kashmir should have been given to Pakistan right from the outset. The whole problem emanates from Nehru's obsession with power, an obsession that his daughter inherited.

Others have blamed the Kakistocracy that rules India in failing to realize its folly in dealing with Kashmir stating that Rajiv and Ganga border Pakistan and have no problems. It is a good sign.

Political analysts said they expected Mitterrand to define France's position during an official visit to Madagascar early next month at a Franco-Africa summit a few days later.</

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Soviet firms may withdraw from Yemen consortium

SANA, May 27, (Reuters): Two Soviet firms licensed to explore for oil in the newly United Yemeni Republic may have to withdraw from the agreement due to financial and technical problems, Western oil industry sources said.

The sources said Machinostroyport and Zarughegologie — which together have an 18.75 per cent stake in a joint-venture consortium — were unable to meet some of the requirements of the agreement.

The Soviet firms were supposed to provide equipment and services to the other foreign companies exploring a 2,100 square kilometre (810 square mile) area in the centre of the country.

But some of the other firms taking part — including Exxon of the United States, France's CFP-Totan and the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Corporation — said the Soviet equipment was below standard, the sources said.

They were also unable to pay their share of costs, the sources added.

"There are certain aspects of that agreement they're having trouble with and finance is one of them," one source said.

Last month, the Joint Yemen Company for investment in oil and mineral resources licensed the consortium to explore in a common border area between the then North and South Yemen.

The new Prime Minister of the United Yemen, Haidar Abubaker Al-Attas, was quoted by Abu Dhabi's Al-Ittihad newspaper as saying his government would give attention to "intensifying the search for oil and natural resources."

Former North Yemeni Oil Minister Ahmed Al-Muhani told Reuters early in May the consortium would spend a minimum of \$3.7 million to drill seven wells and carry out seismic surveys over five years.

The two Yemens united last Tuesday and Southern Oil Minister Saleh Abu Bakr Bin Husain was chosen as minister of oil and mineral resources of the new republic.

Consortium operator CFP-Totan had short-listed four firms to begin a seismic survey of the area, the sources said.

They are the French Compagnie Generale de Geophysique, and US firms Western Geophysical, Halliburton and Norpac.

A decision is expected by mid-June with work due to begin by early July.

Experts said the oil reserves of what used to be socialist South Yemen, although believed to be far greater than further North, were largely untapped because of problems encountered by Soviet experts.

Before the merger, North Yemen pumped 185,000 barrels per day (BPD) and South Yemen about 15,000.

Western oil industry sources said the opening of a 120,000 BPD export pipeline to the southern Bir Ab export terminal scheduled for April has been delayed because Soviet builders had cash problems.

KD market quiet

KUWAIT, May 27, (Reuters): The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was generally quiet today, with European markets closed for the Saturday/Sunday weekend, dealers said.

Some business was seen in short dated deposits, and overnight dealt at 8-3/8, 8-1/2 and 8-7/16 per cent, while tomorrow/next dealt at 8-1/2. Fixed dates were quiet, they said, and one month to twelve months were being quoted at 8-3/4 8-1/2.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29102/12 to the dollar.

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Conference on computer-based education

Plan to bring latest training methods to Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A GROUP of international experts in computer-based training in banking and finance are in Kuwait to demonstrate the range and effectiveness of latest software programmes but it is doubtful whether Kuwait's financial sector will take the advantage of their presence.

The response from Kuwaiti commercial banks to the four-day conference on computer-based education, according to organisers Computhink Computer Company, was lukewarm — it seems that the very weakness of the local banking sector — poor planning and decision making — that the conference could help iron out is responsible for the fact that Kuwait's commercial banks are poorly represented.

The organisers are relieved that banks from other Gulf states, Oman, the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar turned out in force demonstrating that Kuwait, once the leader and fin-

ancial wizard of the Gulf, is falling behind. Kuwait's financial institutions and specialised banks are fairly represented.

The conference that began Saturday at Kuwait International Hotel is run by the International Foundation for Computer-based Education in Banking and Finance (IFCEB), a body that groups both users and producers of technology based training programmes. It seeks to attract managers in financial, human resources and training departments in the public sector, banks, investment houses, insurance companies and auditing and consulting firms. The computer based training in banking complements and can also substitute classroom or text book form of instruction.

The conference comes at a time when Kuwait's commercial banks, still dependent on subsidies from the Central Bank for survival, seek to nationalise their workforce. Most banks run training programmes, but according to Bassam Badawi, Com-



Jos Ballefroid

puthink's research and development manager who used to work in Kuwait's financial sector, they often use traditional and outdated methods or teach procedures that are of no practical use to the trainees.

"The banks' training is also heavily dependent on on-the-job training which is one reason why



Rosair Couture

the service is poor," he said.

The conference is first such event in Kuwait and CompuLink, their commercial interest notwithstanding, is eager to point out that their primary concern is to bring the latest training methods to Kuwait.

"Let's not start 20 years later," said Badawi.

But he had difficulties in making the Kuwaiti bank managers understand the objectives of the conference, he says. Although they pay top service to open-door management style and the need for high expertise and for long-term planning, Kuwaiti bank directors are often described as autocratic, vain and shortsighted. Vested interests, internal politics and reluctance to delegate authority and responsibility often hamper the efficient running of the banks, Kuwaiti and expatriate bankers have privately said.

Badawi has noted that some bank managers are weak in numerals and others are incapable of identifying and defining problems or producing reports.

The software on display and the experts at the conference have solutions precisely for such weaknesses, but Badawi laments that centralised and personal decision-making in some banks mean that one manager could easily propose a proposal for conference participation irrespective of its

usefulness to the bank's operation.

A Canadian banker Rosair Couture, the managing director of the Institute of Canadian Bankers, who has only a scant experience of the banking system in the Gulf region, pointed to what he called the cultural dimension of the banking process. Citing an example he spoke of name lending where loans are granted to prominent business people solely on the bases of information sufficient to fill a business card. Although that is not acceptable practice in the West Couture said it might work elsewhere.

"We cannot say we have an answer for you because we don't. We have an answer if what you want to set up is the system that we have in our country." "If your system works who are we to say that we have a better system," he asked rhetorically. The state of most of Kuwait's commercial banks, that have been propped up by state subsidies ever since the collapse of the unofficial

stock market in 1982, is evidence enough that the banking system is fraught with problems and there is no shortage of bankers who have called for more Western-type regulation, scrutiny and efficiency.

Showing that problems are not confined to Kuwaiti banks alone John May, who teaches banking English throughout Europe, said horrendous amounts of money have been lost because of language misunderstandings. The banks fail to identify the needs of different departments and make a common mistake of teaching their staff general English, said May. Any bank which goes international must have staff that can work in English. The programmes he brought to Kuwait are geared to teach reading and writing skills in banking English, and computer English.

The conference runs through Tuesday when a panel discussion will offer more insight into Kuwaiti needs in terms of training, said IFCEB chairman Jos Ballefroid.

Top-level team to visit London

UK to step up trade ties with S. Arabia

LONDON, May 27, (Agencies): A new British effort was being made to boost trade links with Saudi Arabia during the recent years has ensured durable existence of the national food industries with wheat taking a place of a stable and strong source of income.

The private sector's plans to set up small and medium industries has found adequate support and encouragement from the Saudi government during the past two decades, a matter that led to new and developing industries, a report carried by the Saudi Press Agency, SPA, today attending has yet to be sorted out.

The conference for industrialists and financiers on June 18 is being organised by the Confederation of British Industry at its Central London's headquarters.

UK exports to Saudi Arabia last year totalled £2,400 million, while the kingdom's sales to the UK, mostly crude oil, were £500 million.

In another development a steady increase in wheat production in Saudi Arabia during the recent years has ensured durable existence of the national food industries with wheat taking a place of a stable and strong source of income.

The private sector's plans to set up small and medium industries has found adequate support and encouragement from the Saudi government during the past two decades, a matter that led to new and developing industries, a report carried by the Saudi Press Agency, SPA, today attending has yet to be sorted out.

An average Saudi wheat farmer produces about 800 tons of wheat annually while the production of an agricultural company might reach more than 200,000 tons, the SPA reported.

The Doha-based Gulf Industrial Consulting Organisation has made studies pertaining to the wheat flakes manufacturers to satisfy the demand of the Gulf markets and tendency of the

Spot/next was being quoted at 8-5/8 8-1/8 per cent, and one week at 8-3/8 8-1/8. Little activity was seen in fixed dates, and rates were basically unchanged.

The spot/next was quoted at 3,750/5 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Omani Commerce and Industry Minister Salem Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali today left Muscat for Saudi Arabia on a one day visit to resume a tour he started earlier this month of the Gulf Co-operation Council states.

Ghazali before departure, told Omani News Agency that his visit to the Saudi Arabia comes within Sultan Qaboos' government's policy of co-ordination and consultation with Gulf brothers to facilitate commercial exchange between GCC states.

The Omani minister said that Oman, which preside the current session of GCC, is keen to implement issues on agenda of the commerce and industry committees due to meet in Riyadh next week.

Now lagging economic growth, opportunistic politics and a maladroit government have awoken Kim to the realities of rising prices. She has postponed plans for a new car and a larger home.

"I noticed it with onions, the price was three or four times higher," said Kim.

"But it's not only vegetables — all other things are going up," said her husband, Cho Eun Kyung, 35, a flight operations officer for a European airline. He now repairs his own car because of increasing costs.

Like other middle-class South Koreans, Cho and Kim have in recent months seen their real income shrink — victim to the rising inflation and lower pay rises that have resulted from the flagging economy.

5pc cash dividend declared

Gulf Bank profit surges



Dr Abdul Aziz Sultan

THE Gulf Bank continued to strengthen its liquidity, capital and reserve position during the year 1989. The progress reported last year has been achieved in both volatile and unstable international markets and a difficult and competitive domestic environment.

Dr Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank said in its annual report that the year may retrospectively be described as one marked with an improvement in the domestic economic environment, which has been spurred by economic as well as political developments, regionally and world-wide.

A revived sense of security, bolstered by the cessation of Gulf war, and the subsequent repatriation of capital for deployment in regional investment opportunities, have had a positive impact on the overall

characterised by adjustments to an anti-climax of a boom period in internal processes, competitive forces and customer expectations. The published profit, computed after deduction of provisions for interest in suspense and actual credit write-offs, stands at KWD 6 million, that is an increase of 7 per cent over 1988. The board of directors has therefore recommended distribution of a cash dividend of 5 per cent and bonus shares of 7 per cent.

He said: "Our total assets in 1989, as indicated by the consolidated balance sheet, stand at KWD 941 million, an increase of 2.3 per cent over 1988. Some growth has also been achieved during the year in trading and money market activities on both the domestic as well as the international levels.

Looking towards the next decade, the bank has embarked

on devising a long-term strategic plan, incorporating a review of the bank's structure and operations, with the view to restructure the bank's organisation to place it in a better position to meet its strategic objectives and inject new vigour in its activities and staff. We hope that the results of our strategic study, which is to be implemented on annual basis, would be reflected in our operational budget over the coming years.

The financial industry is extremely competitive and sensitive to service quality. The bank needs to position itself in the market place with a superior service. The bank has launched a comprehensive plan to ensure that the customers get the finest services available. As a first step, retail processing has been upgraded through a state of the art automated processing system in domestic branches.

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Journalists visit Mercedes-Benz plants in West Germany

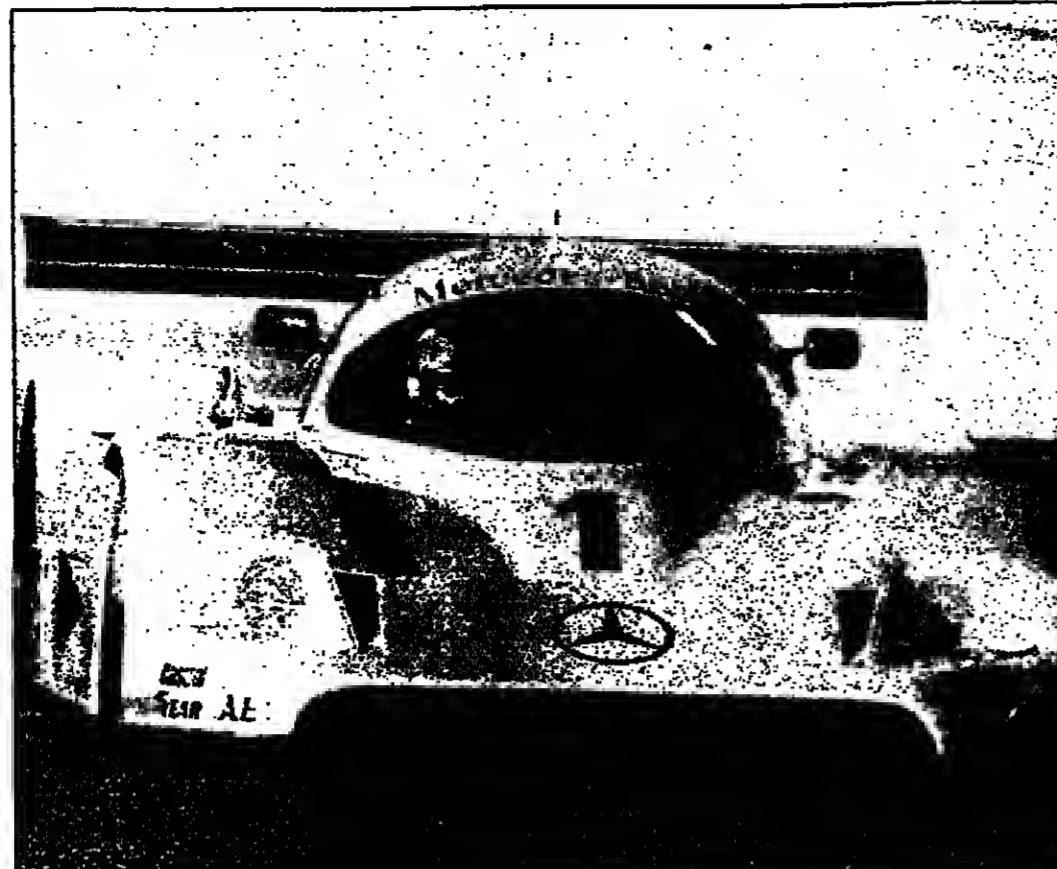
IN compliance with an invitation extended to the local press from Mercedes-Benz AG, and in co-operation with their local agents, M/s A.R. Alibasher & Z. Alkazemi Co., a delegation from the local journalists along with other journalists delegations from Arabian Gulf countries, Syria and Jordan paid a visit to the production and test premises of Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

The journalist delegation was warmly welcomed and received by the officials of the company who are responsible for the Gulf markets. The delegations viewed the complete stages of production and testing of the vehicles in the plants of the company in Bremen and Stuttgart.

The delegation was informed that Mercedes-Benz AG, which is a branch of Daimler-Benz AG group became, since July 1989, responsible for producing all kinds of types of vehicles which carry the emblem of the three pointed star, with a turnover of DM 56 billion. The company employs 170 thousand people distributed between eleven plants and 39 companies and therefore it is the second biggest establishment in automobile production in Germany.

In order to maintain the tradition of the company since more than hundred years, Mercedes-Benz AG., invests a huge amount of money in the field of scientific research and studies for developing their products continuously to suit their leading position in the field of production.

Mayerhofer, the export director for the Gulf area emphasized that the safety and security programme has particular attention and care of the experts, engineers and the technicians in Mercedes-Benz AG., and at the same time, the company spared no efforts in employing the latest technology in their production which depends upon testing and



The advanced race car type C11 which won various prizes in the international races.

inspecting all the parts of the vehicles.

A true example for employing the latest technology is using the "simulator" which was used in the field of tests from 1985. This system is the sole system used

by Mercedes-Benz AG., where it can test the parts of the vehicle, the behaviour of the driver when faced with a critical situation during driving, in addition to that this developed system also tests the roads and their safety which leads some countries to consult Mercedes-Benz regarding the roads and bridges which will be constructed and to be sure about their safety and

security of their products. The delegation was briefed about the intensive training courses given to the employees.

The delegation paid a visit to the proud products of the company which is the production of the new sports car series "SL" class (300 SL and 500 SL) where the company employed the latest technology and innovation machines and test, so the car will pass 40 test stages on computer to determine the minimum deviations and at the end it will be subject to manual check-up where the car is the guarantee of quality.

There are other new products which the company is proud of developing the safety and



The simulator

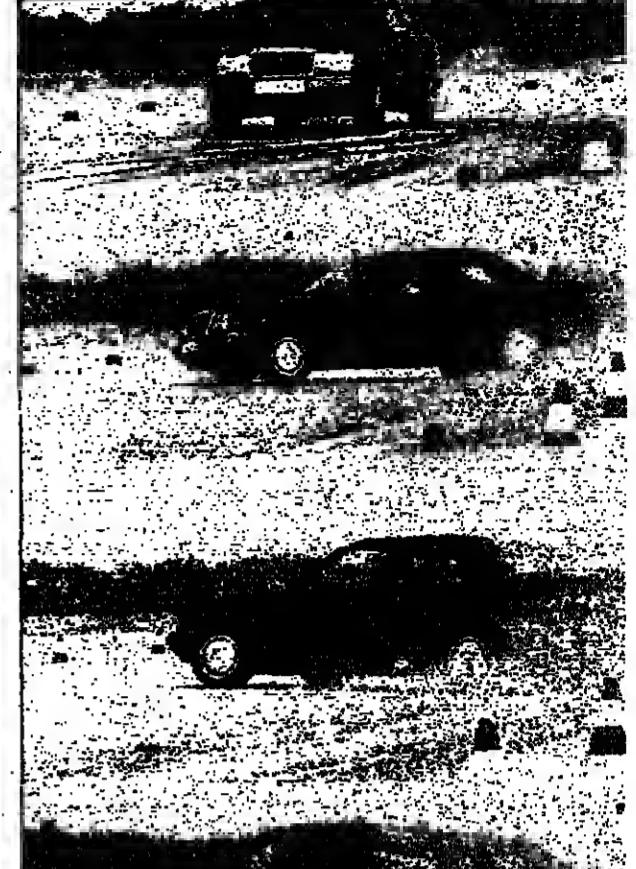
which the new heavy duty vehicles type (SK and MK). These vehicles were voted the best heavy duty vehicles for 1990 by a jury of international journalists. These examples are a true evidence to the quality of the expected vehicles by Mercedes-Benz AG.

The delegation also paid a visit to the branch of the company in West Berlin where they confirmed on the significance of the customer, how to deal with him, and the advantages of after-sales-services which is a policy adopted by the company in all of their sales premises as well as the accredited distributors in order to ensure best comfort to the cus-

tomers.

As much as Mercedes-Benz emphasized on the safety features for both the car and driver, it also emphasizes as well, on the society safety where as Dr. Ohlender, manager of the engine development department said that his department is continuously studying and researching to develop and improve the emission system in the engines to help control the pollution in the atmosphere.

Last but not least, the company achieved a considerable progress in the field of producing racing cars type C11 where its team won the first position in the international races.



Photos illustrating the test system of Mercedes in Stuttgart

New board elected

Aspif chief chairs third annual meeting

THE General Assembly of Arab Society for the Protection of Industrial Property (Aspif), concluded its third annual meeting which was held in Doha, State of Qatar under the chairmanship of Talal Abu Ghazaleh.

Deliberations covered a variety of topics on the agenda, after which the General Assembly approved the annual report and the financial statements as of end of 1989. A new board was then elected comprising following:

Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Mrs Hoda Abd-el-Hadi, Hazim Alainachi, Sheikh Issa Bin Mohammad Al Khalifa, Habib Bourguiba Jr., Dr. Abdel-Rassoul Abdel-Rida, Dr. Mohammad Al Hoshan, Dr. Zaki Maboudi, Muafid El Dib, Dr. Talal Ghazawi, Makawi Awad Makawi, Jawad Habib Jawad, Dr. Mohammad Abdel Kader Haji, Mohammad Doofesh, Mohammad Bachir Al Shehabi, Beizad Yousef Behzad, Ali Bin Khamis Al Alawi, Salim Al Jabi, Juma'a Mansour and Fouad M. Khalil.

The general assembly adopted the recommendations of the seminar "Legislation on Industrial Property in Arab Countries." It decided to exempt trademark and patent registration officials from Aspif membership fees. The general assembly also recommended convening the first Arab international conference on industrial property protection in Cairo during October 1991 for three days under the theme "Industrial Property and its role in Industrial Development." It will be organized jointly with the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research.

Abu Ghazaleh was requested to prepare a paper on that theme. The conference will cover: Arab legislation on industrial property protection, inventories and technology in Arab countries, establishing a regional Arab Patent Office and the proposed model law for Arab countries in cooperation with WIPO.

The newly elected board subsequently met and Talal Abu Ghazaleh was elected president, Mrs Hoda Abd-el-Hadi, vice-president and Hazim Alainachi treasurer.

The board started its meeting by thanking Dr. Erich Haeusser for attending part of the meeting as an honorary board member and for expressing his views as internationally recognized expert regarding future activities of Aspif. The board requested Dr. Haeusser to submit a working programme on his views of development and harmonization of legislation in Arab countries for the purpose of establishing a regional Arab Patent Bureau.

The board decided to hold its next meeting in Sana'a, Yemen during the second half of November 1990.

It was further decided to invite Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy to attend the board meetings as observers.

Fresh bid to strengthen economic ties

EEC and Japan ministers to meet

TOKYO, May 27, (Reuters): Japan and the European Economic Community hold a ministerial meeting in Brussels on Tuesday for the first time in three and a half years, with the occasion as important as the substance.

"We attach crucial importance to the meeting," said a statement issued by the EEC office in Tokyo. "It should constitute a landmark with regard to strengthening Japan-EEC relations politically and economically."

"The meeting has more formal importance than the subjects to be discussed," a spokesman for the office said.

For both sides, it is an opportunity to strengthen the weakest link in the new triangle of global economic power — United States, Japan and EEC.

While Washington and Tokyo are bound by a military and political alliance as well as increasing economic interdepen-

dence, Japanese-EEC relations have lagged.

With the prospect of a single market in 1992, Japanese investment has recently poured into the community. European investment in Japan trails far behind, and EEC countries run a large, though diminishing, trade deficit.

The first of what were billed as annual Japan-EEC ministerial meetings was held in 1984. Since 1986, however, last-minute rescheduling by Japanese ministers has prevented the two sides getting together.

Japan will be represented in Brussels by Kiyoshi Muto, Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and, if parliamentary business permits, by the head of the economic planning agency.

Japan would raise three issues at the meeting for which EEC cooperation would be invited, a MITI official said.

Japan's economy is in recession and the financial sector

One is a 100-year plan to regenerate the global environment. The second is the Intelligent Manufacturing System (IMS) aimed at improving manufacturing.

"We do not want to create a discrepancy in production technology between the three regions," the official said.

Third is improving investment flows between Japan and the EEC.

"The quality of Japanese investment in the EEC is improving, with higher technology being introduced and not just screwdriver plants," the MITI official said. The government wants to increase EEC investment in Japan, he said.

MITI figures show Japanese investment in the EEC at the end of March last year was \$30.164 billion, against \$30.13 billion for EEC investment in Japan.

Because much Japanese investment was in the financial sector while nearly all EEC investment

was in manufacturing, the imbalance in manufacturing was only 1.6 to one, the official said.

The EEC side is unhappy with this imbalance in investment as well as trade. Japanese figures show exports in the year ending in March at \$48.5 billion, up 1.5 per cent on a year earlier, and imports at \$29.3 billion, up 15 per cent.

"Trade relations remain basically unsatisfactory," the EEC statement said. "Europe is still confronted with a lack of real opportunities for market access."

It called for wider opening of the Japanese market for agricultural produce and processed food, for services such as lawyers, insurance and banking and for investments in general.

One group led by Britain and West Germany favour market liberalisation, while France, Italy and Spain want a transition to a market economy.

Japan's economy is in recession and the financial sector

Goodbye to Harish

HARISH DHUTIA (above) came to Kuwait 17 years ago and started working for M/s Yusuf Alghanim Co. in the Personnel and Manpower Planning Department. He worked there about 4 years and later joined Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) in 1977 in the Job Evaluation Division of the Personnel Dept. He was transferred and promoted to the position of supervisor, Job Evaluation Division in Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in 1980 the same year as KPC was established by the Alghanim family.

He was one of the pioneer employees in KPC, who established various assignments in personnel dept including job evaluation, salary administration and manpower. He was transferred to Petroleum Training Centre in Al Ain in the year 1983 as superintendent planning division to establish planning and information divisions of the Training Affairs Group. He is one of the few Indians who acquired the highest position of the division head assigned to non-Kuwaitis.

During the tenure of his 13 years service with KNPC/KPC, he was given many financial rewards for his outstanding job performances.

Apart from his official duty, Harish was also very active in social and cultural activities. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Indian School. He held responsible positions in the various cultural associations from time to time.

He was an executive member, and held the position of joint secretary and convenor of the functions organizing committee of the NRI Investors Forum in Kuwait.

He is leaving Kuwait for family reasons and planning to start his own business in Bombay, India.

He would like to thank all the people and Kuwait where he indeed prospered.

Goodbye to Harish.

Foreign debt jumps

Economy mismanaged to benefit rich minister

KATHMANDU, May 27, (Reuters): Nepal's economy for years has encouraged corruption, made smuggling a key revenue, rewarded the rich and left the majority of the poor world, according to a report by Finance Minister Devendra

Previous governments under an absolute monarch deprived people of their basic human rights, but distorted the making of Nepal one of the poorest countries in the world", in a report issued over the weekend.

A new interim coalition government of formerly-banished parties took power in Nepal five weeks ago after bloody protests in the Kathmandu valley.

The new government wants to hold elections within a year.

Political parties were banned by King Birendra from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy.

Government was answerable only to the monarch, ruled until movement restored multi-party democracy in the world's kingdom.

"People are suffering from the distortions caused by black marketing, extracting commissions and corruption in a blistering attack on the ousted 'panchayat' council government's management of the economy."

Nearly half the population has an income of 30 US cents foreign debt has tripled in the last five years, he said in a 35-page report.

"Only 12 to 13 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (US \$2.6 billion) encompasses low income people

40 to 50 per cent of the population.

Income of such people do not exceed nine rupees (30 cents).

Foreign debt had risen to 33.69 billion rupees (\$1.16 billion) from 10.33 billion in 1986.

Agricultural production had stagnated and economic built on flourishing import businesses.

Israeli firms can now invest abroad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 27, (Reuters): Israeli companies are permitted to invest up to 20 per cent of shareholders' capital and form strategic partnership with foreign firms, the Central Bank announced today.

A law was designed to liberalise Israel's tightly controlled market, the Bank of Israel will relax restrictions to allow strengthen their foreign trade ties.

Until now firms were not allowed to invest abroad except for

ing purposes.

New directives will permit any investment abroad, except financial investments. They are necessary for Israel's involvement in the economic unification of Europe in 1992," Bank of Israel official said.

The directives also allow firms to reinvest in their foreign up to 50 per cent of profits made abroad and to form part-taking minority stakes in a joint venture.

"Foreign currency controls will not be abolished, but they will be liberal," the central bank official said.

Israeli firms can now invest abroad

behalf of the government helped to create came strained relations with M over the pace of reforms.

"I am not the government I am doing this for," the that is being built in Poland.

The strikers rejected Waleesa's demands to end the strike based on his guarantee to work for their and press his criticism of the movement for "realising the re

slowly."

He proposed giving the two strike-free weeks to r

grievances, backed by his

joined a strike if no agreement.

US stock rally hurt by worries, sluggish earnings

NEW YORK, May 27, (Reuters): A strong May rally pushed US stock prices to all-time highs last week, but the market fell at the end of the week as few problems cropped up like weeds in a prize-winning garden.

For the week, the Dow Jones Industrials rose 1.01 points, to 2,820.92, with Friday's 34.63-point fall wiping out most of the previous day's gains. The slight weekly rise, however, did extend a rally that has lifted the 30-share average 152 points since the start of May.

The rally pushed the Dow to six record closes over the past two weeks, but all the while analysts were wondering if things are really that good.

"There's some tentativeness here," said Hugh Johnson of First Albany Corp. "We're getting close to being overpriced."

The thorniest issue is the ever-widening savings and loan crisis. Hundreds of the US federally insured lending institutions have

chalked up mammoth losses mainly due to a sharp real-estate downturn and some fraud and mismanagement, prompting a costly government rescue mission.

The Treasury Department on Wednesday boosted its estimate of the bailout's cost to as much as \$130 billion from the previous guess of \$73 billion. That figure excludes interest payments expected to push the figure up to more than \$300 billion over the next 30 years.

Meanwhile, the slowing economy that produced a much-needed drop in credit market interest rates earlier in the month now appears to be putting a late spring chill on corporate earnings as well.

Shares of Adobe Systems Inc., a once high-flying computer software company, were hammered down 30 per cent on Friday, falling 15 1/4 to 35 1/4, after Adobe said it expected lower earnings.

The announcement sparked a big decline in

stocks generally, with traders believing that if the well-regarded Adobe was having a difficult time, lesser performers will fare even worse in the sluggish economy.

While the stock market has not collapsed at the prospect of a higher savings and loan bailout cost, Johnson said, it is plagued by the prospect of high interest rates linked to the heavy treasury borrowing for the rescue.

"For the past few days the market's realised that this thing's getting bigger and bigger. It's like a toothache that's becoming cancerous," said Frank Cappiello, fund manager for McCullough, Andrews and Cappiello.

Indeed, Cappiello figures a \$300 billion bailout would "eat up the peace dividend" — the term given to defence savings expected from the thawing of East-West relations.

The heavy borrowings make the United States even more reliant on foreign funds to finance its spending, Johnson said.

Goodbye to Harish.

Waleesa's personal appeal fails, strikers threaten work stoppage

WARSAW, Poland, May 27, (AP):

EVENTS

Desert blooms

TEN years ago, greenery was rare in Kuwait. Plants and shrubs thrived only in a few select gardens owned by private Kuwaiti citizens. Kuwait wore a barren look, except for the green belt in Ahmadi. And the green belt in Kuwait, although known as such, looked deserted.

As the years went by, Kuwait's landscape changed, thanks to the government's policy of greening. A "Green Kuwait" — a dream of Kuwaitis — became a reality after the landscaping projects got into full swing.

Under the supervision of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fisheries, several projects were launched to plant thousands of palm trees and other hardy species that could thrive under inclement weather conditions. Popular varieties included Sidr, date palm and sisal.

The Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, researched the various efforts of successful propagation of plants, trees and flowering bushes in Kuwait's desert climate. The result was published by Gulf Bank in their 1990 diary on the theme of "The Green Heritage of Kuwait."

The cover represents native desert flowers — the Iris — happily transplanted in private gardens. Traditional plants that formed the pre-oil landscape are the date palm, Christ-thorn, henna tree, acacia species and salt bushes. New arrivals are the quisquals-indica and the amaryllidaceae species.

The researchers found a controlled environment could produce a flash of colour — and fragrance. Naja Sultan of the Sultan Gallery said: "The site studies and the material gathered was exciting and exemplary of the fruit of efforts of a controlled environment: fresh water, proper soil and shade."

The gallery commissioned Indian watercolourist Shamma Farid to sketch and document the green heritage. The paintings depict the "miracle" of a controlled environment and its spectacular results.

Some of the trees in the "green heritage" collection are over 20 years old, like the date palm sketched by Shamma; nature's colours come alive in Shamma's watercolours ranging from the delicacy of "umbrella grass" to the colour of hibiscus, amaryllis and Arabian jasmine. Some of the works have been printed in the Gulf Bank diary.

The entire "green heritage" collection of watercolours by Shamma, commissioned by the gallery, was shown at the Sultan Gallery in February this year. Shamma Farid, a resident of Kuwait, has exhibited her works in several collective shows and has won praise for her eye for beauty in nature.



Arabian Jasmine by Shamma



The Hibiscus

Play postponed

Room full of foreigners put in a tight corner

KUWAIT Players production of the comedy, *A Room Full of Foreigners*, due to be performed from May 28 to 31, has been postponed due to circumstances beyond the control of the production team.

The play, which had been cleared by the Ministry of Information, and a licence obtained by the Players, had to be postponed because they could not obtain permission to stage it at the UAS.

A Kuwait Players spokesman regretted the last minute cancellation and explained that the Ministry of Education, whose permission is needed to put on a play at a private school, said they did not have sufficient time to review the production, forcing the cancellation.

He said the production team was "miffed and upset" about the last minute cancellation but had decided not to scrap the project. He said they would stage the play in September, hopefully, at a different venue. The play was being directed by Michelle Jean, and rehearsals were in full swing for the May 28 opening.

A large number of amateur theatre buffs had booked seats for the play and were disappointed to learn about the cancellation.



Musical charity

WELL-KNOWN Polish pianist, Anna Cezary Owerkowicz recently gave a recital at the Polish Charity Concert at the Mouselrap Theatre. Yugoslavian musicians also performed "Faces of the Deser," music by Marek Bilinski, was also presented to much acclaim.

The charity concert was in aid of young patients with kidney disorders. Proceeds will go towards buying dialysis machines for children undergoing treatment in Poland.

Above: Owerkowicz takes a bow after the performance; below: view of the audience.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Azaiba
Hamadi Al Ubbaah (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda
Ramzi, Farouk Fisbawi
Al Salmiya

Al Raqqash Wal Siyasi
(Arabic)
Starring: Nabil Obaid,
Salah Qabli

Al Hama
Hamadi Al Ubbaah (Arabic)
Drive-In

Al Raqqash Wal Siyasi
(Arabic)
Al Firdous

Askihi Baazi (Hindi)
Starring: Govinda,
Mandakini

Fahheel Open Air
Commando (Hindi)

Al Fahheel
Jackie & Bruce to the Rescue
Al Jashra
No Hard Feelings
Granada
Power Force
Sakabikhat
Nigbi Stick
Al-Jeeb
Takkor (Bengali)
Almadi Drive-In
C.O.D.

PRAYERS
Fajr
Zahr
Asr
Maghreb
Isha
3.17 am
11.45
3.20 pm
6.41
8.10

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery

A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salma Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islaan, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jameel are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest
May 30: Madhu and Friends present *Krikhye Nanni*; Malayalam; Stage Index perform *Shann Parvam*, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Mearich Songbaad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Natura Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC, Funaites; 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Social

PAC membership

THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A.S. Qureshi (5716328); A.S. Ghazali (5631815); N. Khan (4843578); Z. Butt (2414570).

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme; Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Kuwait Players AGM JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting; 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon: Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting; coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann 531-6905.

Hotels

At Al Salam
Al Bendar Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gondouli Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Meridien
La Brasserie Restaurant Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.
Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhat Nazar: Arabic serial; part 4
11.25 Good Morning: variety
12.00 Nuwarad, Bu Alawi: local Arabic serial
12.30 News summary
12.35 Closedown Evening
4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Mama Anisa and Children; prepared by Samiya Mohammad
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 12
7.00 Songs
7.15 Quran and Science: prepared and presented by Dr Shawki Ibrahim
8.15 Songs
8.30 Good Evening: magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Amsiyah Al Ithnain: weekly programme, presented by Mohammad Al Bargas.
10.15 Muzakkarat Al Zawaj: Arabic serial
11.00 Variety Show
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.20 Holy Quran: Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thunder Cats: Cartoons



The Equalizer (Edward Woodward; above), on KTV2 tonight.

"False Arrest": The family prepared for a TV actor's visit but Carl believes the man is an imposter. Comedy.
10.30 Classic Colour Movies: The Fighting 69th Regiment. Starring: James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, George Brent. Set in World War I, it tells the story of a cocky soldier who becomes a hero.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actual: Closedown

Sports Channel

4.55 Handball: Al Salmya vs Moscova (Russian team).

Please note that KTV programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

French style goes to Far East

By Diana Abou Haldar
Arab Times staff

UNTIL end October, the Meridien hotel at Phuket, Thailand is offering travellers a "Celebration Package" for \$90 which includes three days and two nights accommodation, a round-trip transfer from the airport, discounted tours along with other giveaways and discounts for children, announced Tony Cousins, vice-president for marketing and sales of the international hotel chain who is on a promotional visit to Kuwait.

Cousins showed slides of the Meridien in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, Bangkok, Changi, Phuket and Delhi.

The team of sales and marketing managers for the Middle East and the Asian Pacific Meridien hotels arrived in Kuwait after a 10-day visit to Jeddah, Riyadh and the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia to present their chain of over 50 hotels world-wide to airline and travel agencies and the business sector.

The team that includes representatives from Singapore, Colombo, Thailand and Hong Kong, aims at presenting the mixture of local diversity and international unity of standards in the chain to the local business community.

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Kuwait Meridien staff with members of visiting team. (R to L) Mazen Mirie, public relations manager; Tony Cousins, vice-president for marketing and sales; Nadya Ayad, director of sales and marketing; Karen Woods, general manager and Alain Briera, vice-president, sales and marketing for the Middle East.

Kalpak anniversary

A colourful song and dance show was presented to celebrate the first anniversary of Kalpak, a cultural and literary group. Above: some of the young dancers entertaining guests. Below: a view of the audience.



At the Plaza:

Al Dalaah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolowah: Corner snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Meridien

French food promotion: until May 31, specialities from Provence, south of France, will be featured in the Versailles Restaurant.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O.

Box 2351, Salimiyah, 22024, Kuwait.

Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2423315.

Music

Summer Rock Concert

June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky: rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc.

For reservations call 5387998/2563395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

Higher education

MAY 28: 6 pm. Lecture and video show: "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme. Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya. Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Lockley.

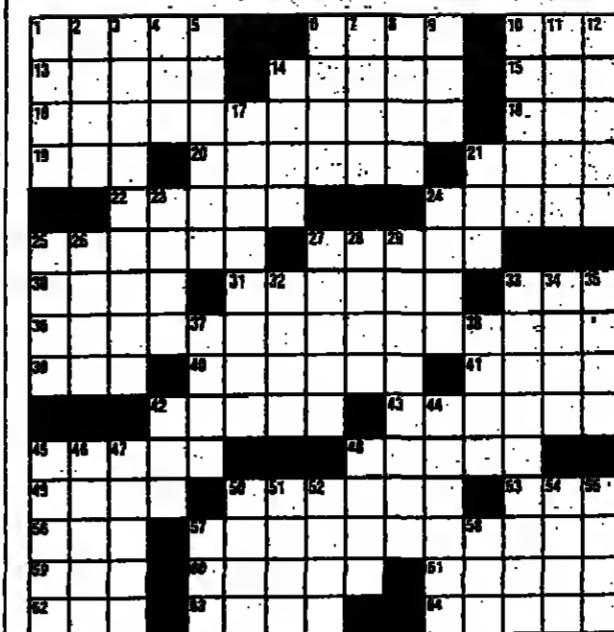
All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh.

Photographs will also be considered for publication.

Phone-in entries will not be accepted.



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Foundation
- 6 Wight or Capri
- 10 Place for a healthy holiday
- 13 Slip by
- 14 Dark
- 15 Big eater
- 16 Voluntary work, in a way
- 18 In a way
- 19 Canu, music-maker, for short
- 20 Music-maker, for short
- 21 Prayer ender
- 22 Mint products
- 24 "Lulu" or "Martha"
- 25 Building beam
- 27 Boars
- 30 Eager
- 31 Referee's relative
- 33 Palindromic name
- 36 Yearly Fifth Ave events
- 39 Opp. of WSW
- 40 German gentlemen
- 41 Tree trunk
- 42 Spokes
- 43 Debussy opus
- 45 Barber's need
- 48 Megna follower
- 49 Made tracks
- 50 Nees's target
- 53 Afternoon social
- 56 Stadium cheer
- 57 Like most appliances
- 58 Historic time
- 60 Make changes
- 61 Electron tube
- 62 Lacking color
- 63 Give way
- 64 More logical

DOWN

- 1 Sun or Bible
- 2 Jail trailer
- 3 Take a magazines
- 4 Alter words
- 5 Unruffled
- 6 "To Live and Die" - 1985 flick
- 7 Vegas machine
- 8 Actrees
- 9 Ultmann's namesakes
- 10 Solissons summer
- 11 Froth
- 12 Tightwad
- 13 Liszt comp.
- 14 Be a party to
- 15 Steiger or Serling
- 16 Bakery offerings
- 17 Shakespeare's Kate, for one
- 18 Crown for Princess Di
- 19 Actress Ada
- 20 Twine
- 21 Arrived
- 22 Interfered
- 23 Imitate
- 24 Eddie root
- 25 Nonpareil
- 26 Big blow
- 27 Lendi
- 28 Help with the dishes
- 29 Teheran natives
- 30 Husband, in Paris
- 31 Dotter's emotion
- 32 Salami center
- 33 On the briny
- 34 Liszt comp.
- 35 Be a party to
- 36 Steiger or Serling
- 37 Liszt comp.
- 38 Crown for Princess Di
- 39 Actrees
- 40 Twine
- 41 Arrived
- 42 Interfered
- 43 Imitate
- 44 Eddie root
- 45 Nonpareil
- 46 Fond du Lac
- 47 Heidi's creator
- 48 By way of

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MAJ	LOSE	SOSA
ERA	IN ORB	TRAMP
ERA	TAW OFF	BROADWAY
ALBANIA	ANNETTE	ONERS
AMIR	AORO	AIT
FINALE	ALTO	ALTO
MANTON	MANOE	DEFENSE
ENG	PALOS	ENG
BAYING	SUOMI	GERES
ADAMSON	ERRANDS	ABELES
BULLETT	TRAIN	BAYING
ATTEA	ERE	SUOMI
HORSE	ROT	ADAMSON
YATS	AST	BULLETT

YOUR STARS



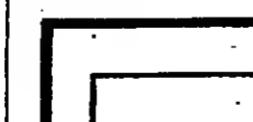
This is going to be an interesting day for you. However, you must make sure that your chores also get done. Do not allow your emotions to run rife but do not repress them either. Be moderate.



You will find it hard to make up your mind, but there is nothing to be gained by 'sitting on the fence'. Your partner will be a great help to you in this respect, too. Pay more attention to reason than to intuition. Be polite.



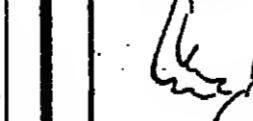
You will tend to be rather easily offended, try to be a little less sensitive. Make sure you do not delay what you know should be done now. Use a little more common-sense. Be more selective.



Something that seemed like a good opportunity will turn out to be nothing of the kind. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 27. You will be able to do something to widen your cultural horizons. Make sure you keep your expenditure within bounds. Be considerate.



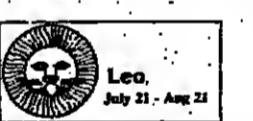
Give your sense of humour just a bit more exercise. You should try to be a little more orderly. Do not believe all you hear and do not yourself spread rumours or contribute to gossip. Be generous.



You will be able to find the solution to a problem that has been bothering you. If you show a little more determination you will be able to achieve your goal. However, you must stay within the bounds of reason. Be accurate.



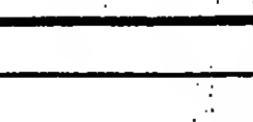
You are liable to be influenced by the worse. Try to avoid getting caught up in detail. Show more goodwill towards others and avoid acting out of malice or malice. Be tolerant.



Something you have learnt recently will still require a great deal of practice, but you are getting there. You should have more faith in yourself and confidence in others. Avoid change for its own sake, but do not turn your back on it either. Be tactful.



Give your sense of humour just a bit more exercise. You should try to be a little more orderly. Do not believe all you hear and do not yourself spread rumours or contribute to gossip. Be generous.



A promise that has been broken is liable to be broken. Do not be too fastidious about it, though. You will be able to learn the experience. Be less pessimistic.



You are more liable to make mistakes than others, too, are liable to do so. Do not permit yourself to be motivated by jealousy. Be less pessimistic.



A promise that has been broken is liable to be broken. Do not be too fastidious about it, though. You will be able to learn the experience. Be less pessimistic.

SCUTTLING A SLAM

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ A 7 6 5 2

♦ J 6 3

♦ 8

♦ A 7 6 3

also had length in diamonds. South's redouble indicated the first-round control of black suits. North brashly led a slam, and West decided he had sufficient defensive values to do rather than save in seven diamonds.

On the opening lead of a diamond, East, Norman K. Narberth, Pa., made the disc play of the ten, losing to the declarer ruffed a diamond and won spade from dummy. When followed with the eight, declarer ruffed. East probably held the nine and finessed, taking the ten.

Sitting West was Brian Glut New York, and he found a special defense—he returned a club clubs! That gave declarer an club trick, but removed a club entry to the table's spades.

Had West defended passive

say, continuing diamonds, he

can get home. Declarer ran

dummy, draws trumps and

rungs the queen of spades.

West must duck. When de

cashes the remaining trumps,

is down to king and one in

black suit, while there is ace in

both on the board. No

which suit West discards on

trump, the other is pitched

dummy and declarer can ma

rest. Try it.

WEST

♦ K 10 4 3

♦ 8 5

♦ Q 6 5 4

♦ K J 9

♦ 10 5 4

♦ Q 8 3

EAST

♦ J 8

♦ 10 7 4

♦ K J 10 7 3

♦ 10 5 4

♦ Q 8 3

The bidding:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

♦ Dbl Rdbl Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

This hand, from the recent Van

derbilt Team Championship, the

major event of the ACBL's Spring

North American Championship in

Fort Worth, Texas, is replete with

interest, both in the bidding and

play.

Since North-South were playing

15-17 point no trump openings,

South judged his hand as too strong

for that action. North's jump to

four diamonds showed a singleton in

that suit and confirmed hearts as

trumps. East doubled to suggest a

possible lead, or sacrifice if West

had West defended passive

say, continuing diamonds, he

can get home. Declarer ran

dummy, draws trumps and

rungs the queen of spades.

West must duck. When de

cashes the remaining trumps,

is down to king and one in

black suit, while there is ace in

both on the board. No

which suit West discards on

trump, the other is pitched

dummy and declarer can ma

rest. Try it.

Had West defended passive

Charming author loses charm; and 'marketers' soiled

The Gold Coast, by Nelson Demille (Warner, 500 pp., \$21.95)

THE best-selling author of *The Charm School* has lost his charm.

John Sutter is a Wall Street lawyer with a rich wife. Upper crust types, but sordid and even sordid in some respects. Frank Bellarosa, a mobster who has his points, moves in next door. It's a pretty good premise for a novel, but it's this is a pretty bad novel.

The problems are these: the characters are hard to like, and sometimes they are hard to believe. Take Sutter's wife. She's a hot mess, but a cold fish in the affection department. It doesn't come off, and the whole ending is spoiled by the implausibility of her character.

The mobster is overbearing and two-dimensional, so you can dislike him as a character or dislike Nelson

Demille's off-the-mark characterisation. The lawyer, who narrates, is a very witty man, but his cynicism about everything is more overbearing than any social strongarming by the guy next door.

One comes away with the impression Demille's next book could be very funny if he fashions a story of happier officers of the Third Reich.

Justice Not Vengeance, by Simon Wiesenthal (Trans. by Edward O'Byrne) (Grove Weidenfeld, 384 pp., \$22.50)

AT 81, despite the international acclaim he has received for plucking old Nazis from their hiding places and exposing their crimes, Simon Wiesenthal is a profoundly frustrated man.

From the Mauthausen Concentration Camp in 1945 a near corpse weighing

110 pounds (50 kg), Wiesenthal relentlessly documented Germany's industrialised genocide of 6 million Jews.

The owl-like-looking investigator, in his memoir *Justice Not Vengeance*, tells one suspense-filled tale after another about how he pieced together clues to bag the most notorious officers of the Third Reich.

Wiesenthal takes readers into the shadowy Odessa network of former Nazi officers, who organised an underground railroad to help colleagues escape prosecution. One nice bit of information is the deal Wiesenthal struck with the author of *The Odessa File*, the successful book and film based on his work, in an effort to smoke out yet another Nazi on the run.

But for all the headlines, victories and honours, this memoir conveys

mostly the author's deep sadness, his puzzlement at how the gruesome facts laid bare of Nazi atrocities are so often ignored and even suppressed.

More than his triumphs, Wiesenthal in this book dwells on his maddening defeats.

Wiesenthal is bitter that in Austria he has been reviled as a mad avenger who continues to remind his countrymen of their past collaboration with Hitler. Still, Wiesenthal bulls ahead, insisting that justice demands an accounting. As one of the few surviving witnesses, he is determined the world not forget.

Markers, by Sidney Zion (Donald I. Fine, 426 pp., \$19.95)

ONE pre-publication blurb for this book is signed Frank Sinatra, in whose

name it is called "Worldly, witty, warm and wise." Some may also find it soiled, scarrous and sophistic.

But no matter: it is also an absorbing tale of the fast-lane, high-stakes world of law, politics and journalism in and around New York that doubtless will sell big in hard and soft covers and end up as some kind of PG-13 or R-rated movie. Its promoters call the book this year's *Bonfire of the Eighties*, and it may just be that precisely inside.

Sidney Zion, coincidentally a lawyer, journalist and man-about New York, also wrote a major biography of Roy Cohn and the temptation is strong to see the central figure of this book as a kind of straight version of the original article.

But whether he is a model or not, Zion's Jesse Farnsworth is a larger-than-life big time operator whose life is defined

by the markers -- favours owed to him for favours done for others -- he holds against everyone from his favourite bartender to the president of the United States.

The story is about how the good guy, a newspaperman, keeps Jesse from getting a "royal flush marker on the world." It's a little complicated and not altogether the most satisfying triumph of virtue over evil, but that's the way it goes in world of markers.

Mine by Robert R. McCammon (Pocket, 442 pp., \$18.95)

DESPITE being labelled "a novel of terror," Robert McCammon's *Mine*, is not frightening in the classic sense.

It is more thrilling than terrifying to go along on the wild, cross-country ride McCammon has set up for mild-mannered society reporter Laura

Clayborne as she chases after her newborn son, stolen by Mary "Terror" Terrell, and aging, underground radical from the 1960s.

Their paths cross in Atlanta at the hospital where Laura gives birth to her first child, David, who is taken from her arms by Mary -- insanely convinced she can recapture her glory days by bringing a boychild to her one-time lover and radical group leader.

From there it's a bloody, murderous chase across the United States, joined at times by a former FBI agent whose previous run-in with Mary's group left him disfigured and seething for revenge.

The horror in *Mine* is watching Clayborne evolve into a mirror image of Terrell.

The scary part is it could happen to any parent.

Dystonia victims cope with pain, muscle spasms — and other people's lack of understanding

Mystery disease that tortures the body

By Frances Hubbard

DYSTONIA is a painful disease which strikes old and young with equal force. It is more common than muscular dystrophy and it can blind, cripple and deform within the space of a few months — yet few people have even heard of the condition.

Until recently, sufferers were likely to find themselves accused of malingering when they complained of feeling unwell. Doctors seldom came across dystonia and many failed to recognise the symptoms.

One Hampshire woman had to wait 30 years for a correct diagnosis of the disease which contracted her entire body in violent muscle spasms. By the time doctors realised what was wrong it was too late for her. The tranquiliser she was given for her "imaginary" illness had turned her into a passive shadow of her old self.

To the estimated 20,000 people in Britain who have some form of dystonia, it can seem as if no-one wants to know. But there is hope. The disease is gradually gaining recognition and a growing number of sufferers are learning to cope — with help from new drugs.

The precise cause of dystonia is unknown, but the disease is triggered by a chemical imbalance in the area of the brain which controls movement. This stops muscles from working in a normal way by sending them into uncontrollable spasms. The result can be uselessly twisted limbs, clenched hands or faces screwed up into a permanent grimace.

Problems usually start in one area of the body, such as the neck or the wrist. This localised form of the disease is called focal dystonia and, because it comes in many varieties, it can be difficult to identify.

Torticollis — the most common form of the disease — makes the head twist round to one side. This result can be hardly noticeable, or so severe that the sufferers' head rests on his or her shoulder.

Blepharospasm is an especially nasty type of dystonia which can make someone with perfect eyesight effectively blind. The muscles round the eye go into complete spasm, causing the eyelids shut and contorting the whole face.

The blindness can last for minutes at a time and, in extreme cases, plunge sufferers into darkness for weeks on end. As the spasms often happen without warning, they turn everyday events such as driving or crossing the road into potentially lethal hazards for dystonia victims.

Peter Heaver, from Wiltshire, was travelling down a busy motorway one night when his view of the traffic was suddenly replaced by blackness. He regained his sight in time to pull in to a layby but a few more seconds of blindness could have led to tragedy.

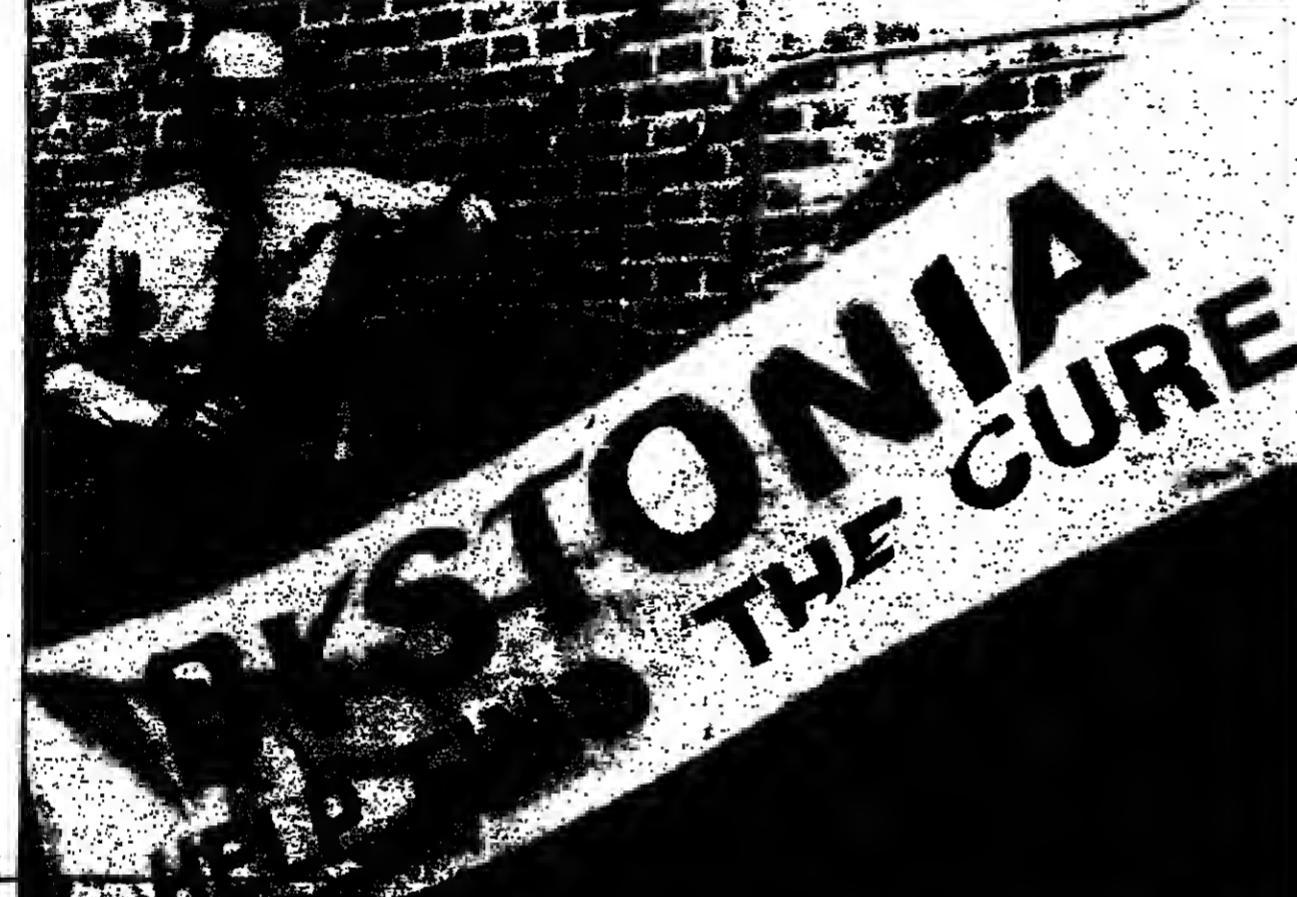
It was Peter's first inkling that he had blepharospasm. Now, more than a year later, he has overcome the worst effects of the dystonia thanks to a course of vaccinations. But he still has to take extreme care. Simple jobs like operating a power drill are fraught with risks for him.

Another form of dystonia is "writer's cramp". The familiar name of this condition disguises a disease which can be bad enough to make people abandon their careers. Cruelly, it tends to strike those who use their hands to make a living.

Writers, sportsmen and musicians are more prone than other groups to the dystonia, which curls fingers into tight claws and causes sharp pains from the wrist to the shoulder of the affected arm.

There is a theory that dystonia sometimes results from trauma to a particular area of the body, but experts are still researching a series of illnesses and injuries which could be culprits of the disease.

Michael Eaton, director of the London-based Dystonia Society, believes there is a link between dystonia and damage to the body. "So-called writer's or typist's cramp usually happens to people who make heavy demands on that set of muscles," he said.



Michael Eaton, director of the Dystonia Society, finds that 80 per cent of his members have been wrongly sent for psychiatric counselling.



Donna Challenger, her mum Jackie and brother Raymond. 'Donna's just a normal teenager except she happens to have dystonia,' says Jackie.

"Several people have gone on to develop dystonia after injuring themselves, but what we don't know is if they had a genetic tendency towards the disease in any case. So much of it is still a mystery that we have to explore all the options very carefully before we can make any pronouncements."

"What's really extraordinary about dystonia is the way it's different in every case. It comes on suddenly for some people, almost overnight for others. For some, it follows an illness. For some it seems to come out of nowhere. That makes it difficult to come up

with a definitive cure, because there are many options of treatment."

Although focal dystonia ranges over a frightening number of areas, including the larynx, jaw and back, it does not usually spread far to other parts of the body. But in a few cases the disease develops into a general "torsion" dystonia, which sends virtually every muscle into spasm.

Sufferers invariably end up in wheelchairs because their limbs twist up into their bodies and make walking an impossibility. When the throat and vocal muscles are also in spasm,

victims of the disease are unable to communicate by normal speech.

Dystonia makes no difference to a sufferer's intelligence or memory and many of the people who find themselves caught inside a body which they can't control go through severe mental stress, as well as physical pain.

"One of the most damaging effects of the disease is the psychological one," Michael Eaton told me. "There is a problem of isolation and alienation especially if a perfectly bright person is unable to work or get out to enjoy the social life he or she used to."

"Dystonia puts a strain on the whole family because it makes sufferers more introverted and self-conscious and, frankly, sometimes more difficult to live with. One of the most important things we at the Dystonia Society can offer is support for people who are under strain."

Michael is still fighting hard to dispel the lingering image of dystonia as a "hypocondriac's disease." "I'd say that over 80 per cent of the Society members have been sent to see a psychiatrist at some point."

"Dystonia was only taken out of the field of psychiatry and into the area of neurology in the mid-70s. Before that, doctors who knew nothing about the disease would assume that it didn't really exist except in the patient's mind."

"But I'm delighted that attitudes are changing at last. Doctors are more informed and sufferers are happier to come forward if they don't think they'll be dismissed as cranks."

Scientists, too, have made a breakthrough which could change the lives of many people now limited by dystonia. A vaccine called botulinum, developed from the deadly botulism toxin, can be injected straight into the affected muscles to counteract the effects of spasms. The benefits last for up to three months and often make a dramatic improvement.

Children who develop focal dystonia before

they are 13 years old have a 60 per cent chance of going on to get total dystonia. But the figure goes down with age. Teenagers have only a 35 per cent chance of getting total dystonia and adults run a risk of just three per cent.

And while children usually inherit the tendency for dystonia from one — or both — of their parents, adult cases are often linked to injury or a related illness such as Parkinson's or Huntington's disease.

All types of dystonia are worse when sufferers are under strain because extra tension makes the muscle spasms worse. Yet the daily pressure of coping with other people's reaction to the disease can be the worst problem of all for its victims.

Just a little more public awareness about dystonia could help people with the disease to lead more normal lives. If the disease was better understood a great deal of hurt could be prevented," said Michael Eaton.

"For instance, one of our members, who has torticollis, was sitting on a bus and because of the way her neck was twisted, found herself staring at the collar of the man next to her.

"After about 10 minutes, he turned round to her and shouted, 'Do you think you've seen enough now?' Then stormed off to another seat. It was very embarrassing for her and she told me it was exactly the sort of thing which stopped her going out. We'd like to stop it happening at all."

The Dystonia Society can be contacted at The Ovalis Workspace, 41 North Road, Islington, London N7. Telephone 071 700 4594.

Donna's case

DONNA CHALLENGER is a bright 13-year-old with lively brown eyes. She likes Jason Donovan, has a serious crush on a boy at her school and enjoys playing computer games — like thousands in other teenagers.

But Donna had general dystonia. She relies on a wheelchair to get her mobility and three times a week she undergoes intensive physiotherapy to try and relax her knotted muscles. Her vocal cords are also affected by the disease and she is unable to speak.

Her mother, Jackie, first noticed problems with Donna's movement when she was a few months old — but it took doctors five years to pinpoint dystonia as the culprit.

Now, Donna goes to an East London school for the physically handicapped, where she's making good progress with the help of a computer. Her muscle spasms are less violent than they used to be, thanks to new courses of drugs, and she's hoping another medical breakthrough will give her more control over her life.

Jackie, 37, said: "Donna realises that doctors have to find a cure almost by trial and error and she's quite happy to try different drugs out. She's just as she was five years ago."

"She's still fighting hard to dispel the lingering image of dystonia as a 'hypocondriac's disease.' "I'd say that over 80 per cent of the Society members have been sent to see a psychiatrist at some point."

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Cambodia to embark on 'dance diplomacy'

By Denis D. Gray

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Employing a sensuous, 1,000-year-old body language, Cambodia's classical ballet will soon embark on some "dance diplomacy" designed to help the country out of international isolation.

The government also hopes its dancers will help dispel charges its culture has been "Vietnamized," observers say.

"The truth is as you see it. One cannot change one's soul. The Vietnamese have their culture and we have ours," said dance director Preoung Chheng.

As he spoke, young girls went through a rigorous practice session at the University of Fine Arts, weaving hands, swaying hips and gliding across the floor to tell stories of bygone loves and wars.

Graduates of such training are to make their first trip to the West since the early 1970s, when the US-supported Lon Nol government had power. The Khmer Rouge reign of terror from 1975-78 all but eradicated the classical dance.

Beginning in June, the national troupe will spend seven weeks performing in Britain and the Netherlands. The dancers also have been invited to a September arts festival in Los Angeles, although it is uncertain whether entry will be granted since Washington has no diplomatic ties with Phnom Penh.

The foreign tours are seen by knowledgeable observers as small steps toward international recognition by a government that most of the world shuns in favour of a guerrilla coalition led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Domestically, the general revival of traditional arts has probably helped the communist, Vietnam-installed government gain some

Colombia hold Egypt to draw in Cup warm-up

CAMEROON, May 27, (Reuters): Egypt, recent 3-1 surprise winners over Scotland, were held to a 1-1 draw at home after fellow World Cup finalists Colombia snatched a late equaliser in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Eight minutes from the end substitute

Freddy Rincón was left unmarked with only goalkeeper Ahmed Shabot to beat and he slotted the ball neatly into the left-hand corner of the net to level the scores.

Egypt, yet to name their 22-man squad for the finals, pressed hard in the opening minutes and playmaker Tamer Abu Zeid

twice forced Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita into making fine saves.

Colombia fought their way back into the game and striker Carlos Estrada came close three times in the space of five minutes.

But almost on the stroke of half-time

Egypt's Hassan twins combined to give the home side the lead.

Ibrahim Hassan sent over a superb cross which found his brother Hossam unmarked in the penalty area. Higuita appeared to have his header covered but it spun awkwardly after hitting the ground and shot into the net.

West Germans outlast Czechs

Spain beat Yugoslavia; Romania hold Belgium

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 27, (Reuters): A well-taken goal by midfielder Uwe Bein earned West Germany a 1-0 victory over Czechoslovakia in their world Cup warm-up game yesterday.

Bein picked up a through ball from captain Lothar Matthäus in the 25th minute and ran 30 metres to slot the ball into the right-hand corner of the net.

The goal was the high point of a solid performance by the West Germans who play in Group D

with Yugoslavia, Colombia and the United Arab Emirates in the first phase of the finals in Italy.

After a disappointing defensive performance in their last friendly against Uruguay which ended in a 3-3 draw, the West Germans, losing finalists in the 1982 and 1986 finals, played with much more poise.

Their four, bolstered by the return from injury of veteran Libero Klaus Augenthaler, looked more secure than against the Uruguayans and the mid-

field, led by the talented Thomas Hässler and Pierre Littbarski creative.

Bein's goal was timely for the 26-year-old Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder. He is battling with Andy Möller for a regular slot in the side.

While they created several chances, Czechoslovakia, who play in Group A in the World Cup with hosts Italy, United States and Austria, lacked organisation.

West German coach Franz Beckenbauer said he was very satisfied with his team's performance considering they were only halfway through their pre-World Cup training camp.

The Germans meet Denmark in Gelsenkirchen on Wednesday for their last test before travelling to Italy.

"We cleared up a few problems we had against Uruguay," Beckenbauer said. "We concentrated in defence a lot better and the team battled a lot more for the ball."

"You can't play in top gear for the whole of the match at this stage. But I'm very pleased with today's performance."

Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos said the difference between the two teams had been in midfield. "The Germans were much better organised in midfield and we were not performing at all in that area," he said.

In Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, Emilio Butragueno scored from close range to give World Cup qualifiers Spain a barely deserved 1-0 win over fellow finalists Yugoslavia in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomi-

lav Ivkovic had been troubled only three times during the match when winger Manuel Manolo dummied full back Predrag Spasic and sent over a cross in the 56th minute.

The ball flew past Ivkovic and Real Madrid forward Butragueno easily scored from three metres.

Yugoslavia dominated the first half and created several chances but repeatedly failed with the final touch.

Dragon Stojkovic, who has signed a \$7 million preliminary contract with French champions Marseille, was at the heart of most of Yugoslavia's threatening attacks.

His tested goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta with a 20-metre shot early as the third minute and midway through the half provided the pass from which midfilder Robert Prosić hit the bar.

The busy Zubizarreta also saved from Prosić and Zoran Vučić in the first half before Zlatko Vujošić beat him in the 39th minute only to see the ball bounce off the post.

In the second half Zubizarreta saved from Vujošić with his foot. Prosić lobbed the rebound over the goalkeeper but full back Miguel Chendo was on the goal-line to head clear.

Yugoslavia faded after Spain went ahead but almost salvaged a draw when Stojkovic hit the post three minutes from time.

"This defeat may teach my players that scoring is what matters in this game, not just creating chances," said Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomi-

lav's Spanish counterpart Luis Suárez said: "I am not entirely satisfied despite the win. Our play was hollow with too little chances created."

And in Brussels, Romania battled back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with fellow World Cup finalists Belgium in a soccer friendly yesterday.

Belgium went ahead in the sixth minute through midfielder Enzo Scifo, back on the side after losing his place under coach Walter Meeuwis, who was replaced by veteran Guy Thys in February.

Scifo, who plays for French club Auxerre, dribbled into the penalty area before slipping the ball past diving Romanian goalkeeper Silviu Lung.

Belgian defender Leo Clijsters left lung helpless again in the 28th minute with a superb lob from just inside the penalty area.

The Belgians, with Scifo dominating the midfield, continued to trouble the Romanians who were playing their final warm-up match before the World Cup.

Two halftime substitutions gave Romania some extra impetus, however, and they pulled a goal back within seven minutes through defender Mircea Rednic.

Daniel Timofte, who came on for midfielder Gheorghe Hagi — recently signed by Spanish champions Real Madrid — and Florin Radu, injected fire into the Romanian side which pushed forward for the equaliser.

The second goal came in the 65th minute from a penalty by Marius Lacatus after Radu was fouled by Stephen Demol.

Friday in gaining entry visas from the US State Department, a meet official said. By that time it was too late for them to make airplane connections to get to the meet in time.

Jackie Joyner-Kersee, a two-event Olympic champion in 1988, also pulled out of the meet with an unspecified injury.

Besides Sotomayor, another top Cuban athlete who was stuck at home was sprinter Ana Quirot, the world's best in the women's 400 metres last year.

In Sotomayor's absence, American Hollis Conway won the high jump with a leap of seven feet, 8 inches (2.3 metres) and

then just missed in three attempts at a US-National record of seven feet, 10 and 1/2 inches.

Conway, of Louisiana, had beaten a field that included Sotomayor at São Paulo, Brazil, last week in the Grand Prix tour's first meet of the season. He said that even if Sotomayor had been able to get here, he did not view the Cuban as a threat because Sotomayor is coming back from a knee injury.

"I jumped against him last week in Brazil, and I could tell it was still bothering him," Conway said.

"The 7-8 jump was so perfect that I tried to duplicate it in each

of the tries at 7-10 1/2. I'm happy to jump 7-8, but I would have liked to have gone higher."

"I expect to jump 8 feet this year, so I can't make a mountain out of a 7-10 1/2 mohill," he said.

Barnes said he was satisfied with his shotput yesterday, particularly considering all the hoopla that he has gone through since he set the world standard with a 75-foot, 10 1/2-inch (23.12 metres) throw last Sunday at a meet in Los Angeles.

"I'm kind of strung out for the week, and I think that hurt my consistency and my concentration a little," Barnes said.

"I told the lads (first) because I was forced to exclude one of the veterans of the team," Bilardo said on announcing the squad.

The squad contains seven survivors of the team that played in the 1986 final, including captain Diego Maradona of Italian champions Napoli.

It also contains a majority of foreign-based players with only eight, most of them defenders, coming from Argentine clubs.

Among the newcomers are stopper José Serrizuela of Argentine champions River Plate and sweeper Juan Simón of Boca Juniors, who spent most of the 1980s in the French League after winning the World Youth Cup with a brilliant young Argentine side captained by Maradona in

1983.

Saxby's time shaved 14 seconds off the record set by Iliana Salvador of Italy.

Thomas' fourth 3-pointer of the game, with 15 seconds remaining, closed the gap to 105-102 before Jordan sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with two seconds to play. Jordan was fouled after he rebounded a missed 3-point attempt by Aguirre that would have tied the score.

With one out in the sixth, and Chicago trailing 4-3, singles by Karkovice, Ozac, Guillen and Lance Johnson produced the tying run. After Jerry Don Gleaton relieved Jeff Robinson (4-4), Guillen scored on Robin Ventura's grounder and Johnson scored on Ivan Calderon's bunt single.

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